



An Act Concerning Information Technology Workforce Development.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (a) The Departments of Economic and Community
2 Development and Higher Education shall produce a long-range
3 strategic plan for information technology workforce development that
4 addresses Connecticut's workforce and research needs as they relate to
5 information technology and electronic commerce. The Commissioners
6 of Economic and Community Development and Higher Education
7 shall appoint a task force to develop the plan. The task force shall
8 include representatives of the Departments of Economic and
9 Community Development and Higher Education, the Labor
10 Department, the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission,
11 the information technology and software industries, The University of
12 Connecticut, the Connecticut State University system, the community-
13 technical colleges, and the Connecticut Council of Independent
14 Colleges and any other representatives the commissioners deem
15 necessary.

16 (b) The plan shall specify: (1) The number and job descriptions of
17 information technology workers in key industries, (2) methods to
18 generate a sufficient number of information technology graduates to
19 fill identified needs, (3) methods to effectively link appropriate and
20 trained graduates to information technology jobs in this state, (4) what

21 programmatic and curricular emphasis should be developed to
22 support the growth of electronic commerce, software and information
23 technology industries, and (5) methods higher education and private
24 industry can use to continue to address information technology
25 workforce needs as they change and evolve over time.

26 Sec. 2. (NEW) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall
27 establish, within available appropriations, a loan reimbursement
28 program for students who (1) attend public and independent
29 institutions of higher education in this state, (2) major in information
30 technology related fields and receive a terminal degree or certificate in
31 such field, and (3) are employed for an electronic or information
32 technology intensive company in an occupation identified as
33 information technology intensive through the standard industrial
34 classification system of the Bureau of Census of the United States
35 Department of Commerce. The program shall provide grants to
36 eligible persons to assist them in paying off their student loans.
37 Persons may apply for grants to the Department of Higher Education
38 at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Higher
39 Education prescribes.

40 Sec. 3. (NEW) Public institutions of higher education shall establish
41 information technology externship programs to allow professors and
42 other personnel to maintain summer or nonacademic term
43 employment with electronic and information technology intensive
44 companies in occupations identified as information technology
45 intensive through the standard industrial classification system of the
46 Bureau of Census of the United States Department of Commerce.

47 Sec. 4. (NEW) The Commissioner of Economic and Community
48 Development shall assist companies in the software and information
49 technology cluster identified pursuant to section 32-4g of the general
50 statutes, to develop a cooperative internship program for students at
51 institutions of higher education in this state or another state who are
52 majoring in information technology related fields.

53 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

ED Committee Vote: Yea 30 Nay 0 JF C/R FIN

FIN Committee Vote: Yea 41 Nay 0 JFS