



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 5910

LCO No. 3296

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Workforce
Development

Introduced by:
(WFD)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HIGHER EDUCATION ECONOMIC
COMPETITIVENESS GRANT PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) Any constituent unit of the state system of higher
2 education, as defined in section 10a-1 of the general statutes, or any
3 independent college or university, as defined in section 10a-37 of the
4 general statutes, shall be eligible to participate in the higher education
5 economic competitiveness grant program established pursuant to
6 sections 2 and 3 of this act.

7 Sec. 2. (NEW) There is hereby established a higher education
8 economic competitiveness grant program in the Office of Workforce
9 Competitiveness. The purposes of this program shall be to strengthen
10 the ability of Connecticut to respond to fast changing workforce needs,
11 to develop areas of expertise within local higher education institutions
12 related to the specialized knowledge-based industries in Connecticut
13 and to enhance the capacity of higher education institutions to transfer
14 research outcomes to the workplace. Grants issued pursuant to this
15 program shall be issued on a competitive basis. Any applicant for

16 such a grant shall submit a proposal which shall outline the
17 development or enhancement of a training, certificate, degree or
18 applied research program that will meet an identified critical state
19 economic development need. Funds may be used for the purchase of
20 equipment. Preference shall be given to applicants who work with
21 other institutions, local businesses and public agencies to carry out
22 such program.

23 Sec. 3. (NEW) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness may create
24 flexible guidelines for the submission of proposals pursuant to section
25 2 of this act. The office shall at least annually inform prospective
26 grantees of state economic development goals for the coming fiscal
27 year. The office may develop and promote ongoing linkages between
28 business and industry and higher education institutions. The
29 Department of Higher Education shall assist in the review of
30 applications for grants under section 2 of this act.

31 Sec. 4. The sum of one million dollars is appropriated to the Office
32 of Workforce Competitiveness, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002,
33 for the purposes of this act.

34 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To strengthen the state's ability to respond to workforce needs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. MERRILL, 54th Dist.