



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 370

January Session, 2003

Substitute House Bill No. 6617

House of Representatives, April 15, 2003

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. O'ROURKE of the 32nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 31-11m of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) All funds received by the state of Connecticut under the federal
4 Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time
5 amended, shall be deposited into the General Fund.

6 (b) (1) Funds reserved for state-wide investment activities by the
7 state of Connecticut from the amounts allotted to the state under
8 Sections 127(b)(1)(C), 132(b)(1)(B) and 132(b)(2)(B) of the federal
9 Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time
10 amended, shall be consistent with the provisions of Section 128(a) of
11 said act.

12 (2) Such reserved funds may be used only to carry out state-wide
13 youth activities described in Section 129(b) of the federal Workforce
14 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended, or
15 state-wide employment and training activities, for adults or for
16 dislocated workers, described in Section 134(a)(2)(B) or Section
17 134(a)(3) of said act, provided such use is consistent with the
18 Connecticut workforce development plan developed by the
19 Connecticut Employment and Training Commission under section 31-
20 11p. The percentage of such reserved funds that are used for
21 administrative costs shall be consistent with the provisions of Section
22 134(a)(3)(B) of said act. For purposes of this subdivision and
23 subdivision (3) of this subsection, "administrative costs" has the same
24 meaning as in 20 CFR Part 667, Subpart B.

25 (3) Any request by a regional workforce development board to the
26 Connecticut Employment and Training Commission for automatic,
27 temporary or subsequent designation as a local workforce investment
28 area shall be approved or denied utilizing the criteria set forth in
29 Section 116 of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-
30 220, as from time to time amended, not later than three months from
31 the date the chairperson of the commission receives the request.

32 (4) No state funds, funds received by the state of Connecticut under
33 the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from
34 time to time amended, or funds for employment services for recipients
35 of temporary family assistance shall be used or reallocated for the
36 purpose of reconfiguring, modifying or eliminating any local
37 workforce investment area in the state in existence on July 1, 2000,
38 unless such reconfiguration, modification or elimination has been
39 approved by the General Assembly or the chief elected official of each
40 municipality that includes the workforce investment areas involved in
41 such reconfiguration, modification or elimination.

42 Sec. 2. Section 31-11p of the general statutes is amended by adding
43 subsection (d) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

44 (NEW) (d) On and after the effective date of this section, the

45 Connecticut Employment and Training Commission shall submit any
 46 proposed modifications to the single Connecticut workforce
 47 development plan developed pursuant to this section to the General
 48 Assembly for review. No reconfiguration of the local workforce
 49 investment areas in the state in existence on July 1, 2000, shall be
 50 implemented unless the proposed reconfiguration has been approved
 51 by the General Assembly or the chief elected official of each
 52 municipality that includes the workforce investment areas involved in
 53 the reconfiguration.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Throughout the bill, the phrase "the association of chief elected officials" was changed to "the chief elected official" for consistency with the general statutes and federal law.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type
Office of Workforce Competitiveness; Department of Labor	See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill places restrictions on the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC), regarding any change or reconfiguration of the workforce investment areas or changes to the state workforce development plan. CETC has approved a plan that as of July 1, 2003 the state will go from eight regional workforce investment areas to five (each area is represented by an established board - workforce development boards).

The bill also restricts the use of state funds, federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding or funding for employment services for recipients of Temporary Family Assistance to be used for changing the workforce investment areas that existed on July 1, 2000 without approval by the legislature or the chief elected officials involved in the change. The regional workforce development boards receive allocations from the Department of Labor (from the above-mentioned funding sources). The Office of Workforce Competitiveness, which staffs CETC, receives state funding to support various workforce development activities. It is unclear the bill's impact as the current process of reconfiguration of the workforce investment areas has been ongoing as part of Connecticut's statewide plan submitted under WIA.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6617

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION**SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits state funds, federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, or funds for employment services for Temporary Family Assistance recipients to be used or reallocated for reconfiguring, modifying, or eliminating any local workforce investment area existing in the state on July 1, 2000, unless the action is approved by the legislature or the chief elected official of each municipality included in the workforce investment areas involved. It prohibits reconfiguring any of the state's local workforce investment areas in existence on July 1, 2000, unless the proposal is approved by the legislature or the chief elected official of each municipality included in the workforce investment areas involved in the reconfiguration.

The bill requires the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission, on and after its effective date, to submit any proposed modifications to the state workforce development plan to the legislature for review.

Under the bill, any request to the commission from a regional workforce development board for automatic, temporary, or subsequent designation as a local workforce investment area must be approved or denied, using federal WIA criteria, within three months after the chairperson gets the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

FEDERAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVING OR DESIGNATING WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS

Federal law requires the governor to approve requests for temporary designation as a local workforce investment area from any unit of general local government with a population of 200,000 or more that was a service delivery area under the federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) on August 6, 1998 if he determines that the area (1)

performed successfully, in each of the two years prior to the request for which data are available, in delivering services to participants under the JTPA and (2) has sustained the fiscal integrity of the JTPA funds the area used to carry out activities. The law defines what constitutes successful performance and sustained fiscal integrity (29 USC 2831).

BACKGROUND

Local Workforce Investment Areas

WIA requires the governor to designate local workforce investment areas in consultation with the state workforce development board and local chief elected officials, using specified federal criteria (29 USC 2831(a)(c)). In July 1, 2000, there were eight such areas in Connecticut: Southwest, Mid-Connecticut, Danbury/Torrington, Northeast, Capital Region, New Haven, Waterbury, and Southeast. According to the Department of Labor, the areas are currently being reorganized from eight to five, and the changes will take effect in July.

Workforce Development Boards

The governor designated the Connecticut Employment Training Commission, created in 1989, as the state workforce development board. It must coordinate workforce programs funded by the federal Labor Department and training programs administered by the departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development. It prepares and oversees the implementation of the state's workforce development plan, which is a comprehensive five-year workforce development plan filed with the U.S. labor secretary, detailing how the state plans to provide services to targeted populations. WIA requires the plan in order for the state to receive federal job training funds.

Each local workforce investment area houses a local workforce development board, called a regional workforce development board (RWDB). RWDBs are responsible for workforce development activities in their geographic areas, including developing workforce plans, selecting program providers, overseeing programs, negotiating performance measures, establishing worker training education committees, and promoting private-sector involvement.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 9 Nay 5