



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**Substitute Bill No. 5571**

\*        HB05571LAB        031604        \*

**AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NURSING SHORTAGE AND  
ESTABLISHING A CHALLENGE GRANT FOR REGIONAL  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.**

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

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
2       Connecticut nursing incentive program administered by the  
3       Department of Higher Education.

4       (b) The department shall provide financial assistance to four  
5       regional community-technical colleges that enter into partnerships  
6       with hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, as  
7       amended, or other health care institutions, as defined in said section  
8       19a-490, and secure private funding to increase the number of faculty  
9       members at such regional community-technical colleges that are  
10      qualified to teach or train students to become registered nurses.

11      (c) A regional community-technical college seeking such assistance  
12      shall submit to the Department of Higher Education its nursing faculty  
13      expansion plan, together with a commitment agreement signed by its  
14      hospital or health care institution partner or partners and information  
15      on the amount of private funding secured by the partnership.  
16      Assistance provided by the department to a regional community-

17 technical college (1) may be provided for up to two years in accordance  
18 with this subsection, and (2) shall not exceed (A) seventy-five  
19 thousand dollars per year, and (B) the amount of private funding  
20 secured by the partnership. Colleges seeking assistance for a second  
21 year may submit information to the department on any additional  
22 private funding secured by the partnership. In determining whether to  
23 provide assistance pursuant to this section for a second year, the  
24 department shall consider the number of persons teaching or  
25 providing training to nursing students pursuant to the nursing faculty  
26 expansion program and the number of students graduating from  
27 nursing programs.

28 (d) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of this section,  
29 the Commissioner of Higher Education shall adopt regulations, in  
30 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,  
31 establishing guidelines for the operation of the incentive program  
32 authorized by this section.

33 (e) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2005, and June 30, 2006, the  
34 Department of Higher Education may use up to two per cent of the  
35 funds appropriated for purposes of this section for program  
36 administration.

37 (f) Not later than January 1, 2007, the Commissioner of Higher  
38 Education shall submit a status report, in accordance with the  
39 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the establishment  
40 and operation of the incentive program authorized under this section  
41 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
42 cognizance of matters relating to education, public health and higher  
43 education and employment advancement.

44 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30,  
45 2005, the Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall establish a  
46 challenge grant program for regional workforce development boards,  
47 established pursuant to section 31-3k of the general statutes, for the  
48 purpose of (1) expanding educational programs directed at providing

49 low wage, low skilled workers with skill assessment and life  
 50 management support, and (2) training in high growth, workforce  
 51 shortage areas such as health care and information technology. Such  
 52 expansion in educational programs and training shall be accomplished  
 53 through expansion of an existing job training academy.

54 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall provide  
 55 assistance pursuant to this section to a regional workforce  
 56 development board that raises money from private sources and  
 57 commits such money to the expansion of a job training academy for  
 58 the purposes described in subsection (a) of this section. The amount of  
 59 such assistance shall be equal to the amount raised by the regional  
 60 workforce development board from private sources, but the total  
 61 amount of assistance provided to all regional workforce development  
 62 boards pursuant to this section shall not exceed five hundred thousand  
 63 dollars.

64 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of six hundred thousand  
 65 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, from  
 66 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, for the  
 67 program established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

68 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 69 dollars is appropriated to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness,  
 70 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, for the  
 71 program established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In subsection (c) of section 1, the last sentence was rewritten to clarify the criteria the department shall consider in determining whether to

