



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 517

LCO No. 1956

01956_____HED

Referred to Committee on Higher Education and Employment
Advancement

Introduced by:
(HED)

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Office of Workforce
2 Competitiveness shall, within available appropriations and in
3 consultation with the council established under subsection (b) of this
4 section, establish a competitive "Innovation Challenge Grant" program
5 that promotes and encourages partnerships and collaborations
6 involving technology-based business and industry with institutions of
7 higher education and regional vocational-technical schools in pursuit
8 of the development of educational programs in emerging and
9 interdisciplinary technology fields and related issues.

10 (b) There is established a Council of Advisors on Strategies for the
11 Knowledge Economy, that shall promote the formation of university-
12 industry partnerships, identify benchmarks for technology-based
13 workforce innovation and competitiveness and advise the award
14 process for Innovation Challenge Grants to public postsecondary
15 schools and their business partners. The council shall be chaired by the
16 director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and shall include

17 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the
18 Commissioners of Economic and Community Development and
19 Higher Education and the Labor Commissioner and two
20 representatives from the technology industry appointed by the
21 Governor.

22 Sec. 2. Section 4-124w of the general statutes, as amended by section
23 5 of public act 03-19 and section 8 of public act 03-278, is repealed and
24 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

25 (a) There is established an Office of Workforce Competitiveness
26 [which] that shall be within the Office of Policy and Management for
27 administrative purposes only.

28 (b) The office shall:

29 (1) Be the Governor's principal workforce development policy
30 advisor;

31 (2) Be the liaison between the Governor and any local, state or
32 federal organizations and entities with respect to workforce
33 development matters, including implementation of the Workforce
34 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended;

35 (3) Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state
36 agencies;

37 (4) Coordinate the state's implementation of the federal Workforce
38 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended,
39 and advise and assist the Governor with matters related to said act;

40 (5) Coordinate the development and implementation of all
41 technology-based talent and workforce innovation strategies among all
42 state and quasi-public agencies and others involved in education,
43 workforce and economic development, including the creation of a
44 centralized clearinghouse and technical assistance function at the state
45 level to assist applicants in developing Department of Defense Small

46 Business Innovation and Research Programs and other proposals;

47 [(5)] (6) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
48 involvement of members of the public, the legislature and local
49 officials in workforce development matters, including implementation
50 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to
51 time amended;

52 [(6)] (7) Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, appoint such officials
53 and other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the
54 duties of the office;

55 [(7)] (8) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
56 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the
57 provisions of sections 19 and 20 of public act 00-192*;

58 [(8)] (9) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions
59 of sections 19 and 20 of public act 00-192*; [and]

60 (10) Be the lead state agency for the development of employment
61 and training strategies and initiatives required to support
62 Connecticut's position in the knowledge economy; and

63 [(9)] (11) Not later than October 1, 2002, and annually thereafter,
64 submit a report, with the assistance of the Labor Department, to the
65 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
66 having cognizance of matters relating to education, economic
67 development, labor and higher education and employment
68 advancement specifying a forecasted assessment by the Labor
69 Department of workforce shortages in occupations in this state for the
70 succeeding two and five-year periods. The report shall also include
71 recommendations concerning (A) methods to generate a sufficient
72 number of workers to meet identified workforce needs, including, but
73 not limited to, scholarship, school-to-career and internship programs,
74 and (B) methods secondary and higher education and private industry
75 can use to address identified workforce needs.

76 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness may call upon any
77 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state to
78 supply such reports, information and assistance as may be necessary
79 or appropriate in order to carry out the duties and requirements of the
80 Office for Workforce Competitiveness. Each officer or employee of
81 such office, department, board, commission or other agency of the
82 state is authorized and directed to cooperate with the Office of
83 Workforce Competitiveness and to furnish such reports, information
84 and assistance.

85 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 4-124z of the general statutes, as
86 amended by section 9 of public act 03-278, is repealed and the
87 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

88 (b) Not later than January 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, the
89 Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with section 11-
90 4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
91 cognizance of matters relating to education, commerce, labor and
92 higher education and employment advancement on (1) the
93 implementation of any recommended programs or strategies within
94 the vocational-technical school system or the community-technical
95 college system to strengthen the linkage between vocational-technical
96 and community-technical college certification and degree programs
97 and the employment needs of business and industry, and (2) any
98 certification or degree programs offered by vocational-technical
99 [colleges] schools or community-technical colleges that do not meet
100 current industry standards.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a competitive grant program for the development of educational programs in emerging and interdisciplinary technology

fields and related issues, to give the Office of Workforce Competitiveness responsibility for coordinating state-wide development and implementation of all technology-based talent and workforce innovation strategies and to make technical corrections to workforce development statutes.

[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.]