



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 517

February Session, 2004

* _____SB00517LAB____031604_____*

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 to promote and encourage partnerships and collaborations involving
6 technology-based business and industry with institutions of higher
7 education and regional vocational-technical schools for the
8 development of educational programs in emerging and
9 interdisciplinary technology fields and to address related issues.

10 (b) There is established a Council of Advisors on Strategies for the
11 Knowledge Economy to promote the formation of university-industry
12 partnerships, identify benchmarks for technology-based workforce
13 innovation and competitiveness and advise the award process for
14 Innovation Challenge Grants to public postsecondary schools and their
15 business partners. The council shall be chaired by the director of the
16 Office of Workforce Competitiveness and shall include the Secretary of
17 the Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioners of Economic
18 and Community Development and Higher Education and the Labor
19 Commissioner and four representatives from the technology industry,
20 one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the

21 Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of
22 Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority
23 leader of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the
24 minority leader of the House of Representatives.

25 Sec. 2. Section 4-124w of the general statutes, as amended by section
26 5 of public act 03-19 and section 8 of public act 03-278, is repealed and
27 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

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

31 (b) The office shall:

32 (1) Be the Governor's principal workforce development policy
33 advisor;

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

38 (3) Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state
39 agencies;

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

43 (5) Coordinate the development and implementation of strategies
44 regarding technology-based talent and innovation among state and
45 quasi-public agencies, including the creation of a centralized
46 clearinghouse and technical assistance function at the state level to
47 assist applicants in developing small business innovation research
48 programs in conformity with the federal program established pursuant
49 to the Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of
50 1992, P.L. 102-564, as amended, and other proposals;

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

56 [(6)] (7) Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, appoint such officials
57 and other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the
58 duties of the office;

59 [(7)] (8) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
60 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the
61 provisions of this section and section 20 of public act 00-192*;

62 [(8)] (9) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions
63 of this section and section 20 of public act 00-192*; [and]

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

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

80 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness may call upon any
81 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state to

82 supply such reports, information and assistance as may be necessary
83 or appropriate in order to carry out the duties and requirements of the
84 Office for Workforce Competitiveness. Each officer or employee of
85 such office, department, board, commission or other agency of the
86 state is authorized and directed to cooperate with the Office of
87 Workforce Competitiveness and to furnish such reports, information
88 and assistance.

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

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

105 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2005, the
106 Commissioner of Education shall, in collaboration with the
107 Commissioner of Higher Education, the chancellor of the
108 community-technical college system and the Office of Workforce
109 Competitiveness, report, in accordance with the provisions of section
110 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor's Council on Economic
111 Competitiveness and Technology established under Executive Order
112 No. 13 of Governor John G. Rowland, the Office of Workforce
113 Competitiveness and the Connecticut Employment and Training
114 Commission concerning:

115 (1) Initiatives to build upon the existing partnership of the regional
116 vocational technical school system and the regional
117 community-technical college system in providing an integrated system
118 of secondary and postsecondary education for regional
119 vocational-technical students pursuing careers in workforce shortage
120 areas forecasted pursuant to subdivision (9) of subsection (b) of section
121 4-124w of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

122 (2) Initiatives to encourage and facilitate the matriculation of
123 regional vocational-technical school graduates at regional
124 community-technical colleges;

125 (3) Recommendations for the continuous improvement of
126 articulation agreements between regional vocational-technical schools
127 and regional community-technical colleges, and

128 (4) Recommendations for implementing new articulation
129 agreements between regional vocational-technical schools and regional
130 community-technical colleges, particularly in workforce shortage
131 areas.

132 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2004,
133 the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school system
134 shall create an integrated system of state-wide industry advisory
135 committees for each career cluster offered as part of the regional
136 vocational-technical school and regional community-technical college
137 systems. Said committees shall include industry representatives of the
138 specific career cluster. Each committee for a career cluster shall, with
139 support from the regional vocational-technical and regional
140 community-technical college systems and the Department of
141 Education, establish specific skills standards, corresponding
142 curriculum and a career ladder for the cluster which shall be
143 implemented as part of the schools' core curriculum.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2005

