



General Assembly

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Amendment

LCO No. 4475

HB0557004475HDO

Offered by:

REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5570

File No. 333

Cal. No. 239

**"AN ACT CONCERNING A CONNECTICUT STRATEGIC
WORKFORCE PLAN."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Office of Workforce
4 Competitiveness shall, within available appropriations and in
5 consultation with the council established under subsection (b) of this
6 section, establish a competitive "Innovation Challenge Grant" program
7 to promote and encourage partnerships and collaborations involving
8 technology-based business and industry with institutions of higher
9 education and regional vocational-technical schools for the
10 development of educational programs in emerging and
11 interdisciplinary technology fields and to address related issues.

12 (b) There is established a Council of Advisors on Strategies for the
13 Knowledge Economy to promote the formation of university-industry
14 partnerships, identify benchmarks for technology-based workforce
15 innovation and competitiveness and advise the award process for

16 Innovation Challenge Grants to public postsecondary schools and their
17 business partners. The council shall be chaired by the director of the
18 Office of Workforce Competitiveness and shall include the Secretary of
19 the Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioners of Economic
20 and Community Development and Higher Education and the Labor
21 Commissioner and four representatives from the technology industry,
22 one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the
23 Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of
24 Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority
25 leader of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the
26 minority leader of the House of Representatives.

27 Sec. 502. Section 4-124w of the general statutes, as amended by
28 section 5 of public act 03-19 and section 8 of public act 03-278, is
29 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
30 *1, 2004*):

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

34 (b) The office shall:

35 (1) Be the Governor's principal workforce development policy
36 advisor;

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

41 (3) Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state
42 agencies;

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

46 (5) Coordinate the development and implementation of strategies
47 regarding technology-based talent and innovation among state and
48 quasi-public agencies, including the creation of a centralized
49 clearinghouse and technical assistance function at the state level to
50 assist applicants in developing small business innovation research
51 programs in conformity with the federal program established pursuant
52 to the Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of
53 1992, P.L. 102-564, as amended, and other proposals;

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

59 [(6)] (7) Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, appoint such officials
60 and other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the
61 duties of the office;

62 [(7)] (8) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
63 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the
64 provisions of this section and section 20 of public act 00-192*;

65 [(8)] (9) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions
66 of this section and section 20 of public act 00-192*; [and]

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

70 [(9)] (11) Not later than October 1, 2002, and annually thereafter,
71 submit a report, with the assistance of the Labor Department, to the
72 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
73 having cognizance of matters relating to education, economic
74 development, labor and higher education and employment
75 advancement specifying a forecasted assessment by the Labor
76 Department of workforce shortages in occupations in this state for the

77 succeeding two and five-year periods. The report shall also include
78 recommendations concerning (A) methods to generate a sufficient
79 number of workers to meet identified workforce needs, including, but
80 not limited to, scholarship, school-to-career and internship programs,
81 and (B) methods secondary and higher education and private industry
82 can use to address identified workforce needs.

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

92 Sec. 503. Subsection (b) of section 4-124z of the general statutes, as
93 amended by section 9 of public act 03-278, is repealed and the
94 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

108 Sec. 504. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2005, the

109 Commissioner of Education shall, in collaboration with the
110 Commissioner of Higher Education, the chancellor of the
111 community-technical college system and the Office of Workforce
112 Competitiveness, report, in accordance with the provisions of section
113 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor's Council on Economic
114 Competitiveness and Technology established under Executive Order
115 No. 13 of Governor John G. Rowland, the Office of Workforce
116 Competitiveness and the Connecticut Employment and Training
117 Commission concerning:

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

125 (2) Initiatives to encourage and facilitate the matriculation of
126 regional vocational-technical school graduates at regional
127 community-technical colleges;

128 (3) Recommendations for the continuous improvement of
129 articulation agreements between regional vocational-technical schools
130 and regional community-technical colleges, and

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

135 Sec. 505. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1,
136 2004, the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school
137 system shall create an integrated system of state-wide industry
138 advisory committees for each career cluster offered as part of the
139 regional vocational-technical school and regional community-technical
140 college systems. Said committees shall include industry

141 representatives of the specific career cluster. Each committee for a
142 career cluster shall, with support from the regional
143 vocational-technical and regional community-technical college systems
144 and the Department of Education, establish specific skills standards,
145 corresponding curriculum and a career ladder for the cluster which
146 shall be implemented as part of the schools' core curriculum."