



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 773

January Session, 2007

Substitute House Bill No. 6500

House of Representatives, May 7, 2007

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S FILM INDUSTRY.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Office of Workforce
2 Competitiveness, in consultation with the Labor Commissioner, the
3 Commissioners of Education and Economic and Community
4 Development, and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and
5 Tourism, shall establish a program that is designed to develop a
6 trained workforce for the film industry in the state. Such program shall
7 have three components: (1) An unpaid intern training program for
8 high school and college students; (2) a production assistant training
9 program open to any state resident; and (3) a workforce training
10 program that would include classroom training, on-set training and a
11 mentor program.

12 (b) Not later than ninety days after July 1, 2007, the Office of
13 Workforce Competitiveness shall establish written participation
14 guidelines for the program authorized under this section.

15 (c) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Office
 16 of Workforce Competitiveness shall submit a status report, in
 17 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 18 on the establishment and operation of the program authorized under
 19 this section to the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission,
 20 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
 21 cognizance of matters relating to commerce, and higher education and
 22 employment advancement.

23 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Office of Workforce
 24 Competitiveness shall undertake an in-depth study on the feasibility of
 25 developing the visual effects, animation and video game industries in
 26 the state, and, if appropriate, make recommendations on how to
 27 facilitate such development. The results of the study and any
 28 recommendations shall be submitted to the joint standing committees
 29 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 30 commerce and finance, revenue and bonding, not later than January
 31 15, 2008.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

CE *Joint Favorable C/R* FIN
FIN *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* APP
APP *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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Workforce Competitiveness, Off.	GF - Cost	\$1.5 million- \$1.75 million	\$1.5 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC), in consultation with the Commissioners of the Department of Labor, Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, to establish a program to develop a trained workforce for the film industry. The cost by section appears below.

Section 1 requires a three component training program based on best practice models. The majority of the cost for the training program is based on the third phase, in which an apprenticeship program is subsidized fifty percent by a stipend of approximately \$500. If 200 residents were trained each year in an apprenticeship for 10 weeks, the total cost would be \$1.0 million. An additional cost of \$500,000 is estimated for equipment, supplies, training facilities, and administrative expenses.

Section 2 requires an in-depth feasibility study on whether to develop a visual effects, animation, and video game industry in Connecticut. Any appropriate recommendations for development must be presented to the Commerce and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees by January 15, 2008. The study is estimated to cost \$250,000.

The Out Years

A one time cost of \$250,000 will fund the feasibility study. The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above regarding the training program and operational costs would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6500

AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S FILM INDUSTRY.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) to establish a film industry workforce training program in Connecticut, in consultation with the labor, education, and economic and community development commissioners and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. The program must have the following components:

1. an unpaid internship program for high school and college students,
2. a production assistant training program for state residents, and
3. a workforce training program that includes mentors and classroom and on-set training.

OWC must establish written participation guidelines for the program by September 30, 2007 and submit a status report on it every year starting by January 1, 2008. The status report must go to the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission and the Commerce and Higher Education committees.

The bill also requires OWC to complete an in-depth feasibility study of whether to develop a visual effects, animation, and video game industry in Connecticut and, if appropriate, recommend how to develop the industry. OWC must report the study's results and any recommendations to the Commerce and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees by January 15, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 7400, reported favorably by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, also requires OWC, in consultation with the labor, education, and economic and community development commissioners and the CCCT, to establish a pilot program to develop a model for training a film, media, and entertainment industry workforce. The pilot program must collaborate with an arts magnet school. That bill requires OWC to submit an annual status report on the program and the collaborative measures to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees starting by February 15, 2008.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 18 Nay 1 (03/15/2007)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 48 Nay 3 (04/10/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 45 Nay 0 (04/19/2007)