



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 273

January Session, 2007

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1285

Senate, April 3, 2007

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CAREER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-20a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) [(1)] Local and regional boards of education, the regional
4 vocational-technical school system, postsecondary institutions and
5 regional educational service centers, may [(A)] (1) in consultation with
6 regional workforce development boards established pursuant to
7 section 31-3k, local employers, labor organizations and community-
8 based organizations establish career pathway programs leading to a
9 Connecticut career certificate in accordance with this section, and [(B)]
10 (2) enroll students in such programs based on entry criteria
11 determined by the establishing agency. Such programs shall be
12 approved by the Commissioner of Education and the Labor
13 Commissioner. [after review and comment by the regional school-to-
14 career partnership established by the Commissioner of Education

15 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection for the region in which
16 the program is proposed to operate.] Applications for program
17 approval shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education in such
18 form and at such time as [he] the commissioner prescribes. All
19 programs leading to a Connecticut career certificate shall provide
20 equal access for all students and necessary accommodations and
21 support for students with disabilities.

22 [(2) The Commissioner of Education shall establish regional school-
23 to-career partnerships. The partnerships shall include, but need not be
24 limited to, educators, students and representatives of local and
25 regional boards of education, postsecondary educational institutions,
26 regional workforce development boards established pursuant to
27 section 31-3k, business and industry and labor organizations.]

28 (b) Programs established pursuant to this section may be offered for
29 one or more years and shall include:

30 (1) Not less than eighty hours during any year of school-based
31 instruction which focuses on the academic, technical and
32 employability skills outlined in the skill standards established
33 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, workplace safety awareness
34 and instruction in the history of the American economy and the role of
35 labor, business and industry;

36 (2) Work-based instruction which includes worksite experience,
37 including all major activities related to the career cluster. Such
38 worksite experience shall: (A) Be paid, except as provided in section
39 10-20b, as amended by this act, (B) include a planned program of job
40 training and work experiences, including training related to
41 preemployment and employment skills to be mastered at
42 progressively higher levels, that are coordinated with school-based
43 instruction, (C) include instruction, to the extent practicable, in all
44 aspects of the industry, (D) relate to the academic, technical and
45 employability skills outlined in the skill standards established
46 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (E) include, but not be limited
47 to, on-the-job training, internships, community service and field trips,

48 (F) be conducted in accordance with an individualized written training
49 and mentoring plan, agreed to by the student, his parent or guardian,
50 if the student is under eighteen years of age, the principal of the school
51 or the chief executive officer of the agency operating the program in
52 which the student is enrolled, or the designee of such principal or chief
53 executive officer, and the employer, and (G) be in conformance with
54 the requirements of section 10-20d, as amended by this act; and

55 (3) Activities that ensure coordination between school-based
56 instruction and work-based instruction, including, but not limited to,
57 (A) career awareness and exploration opportunities, and (B)
58 information and guidance concerning transition to postsecondary
59 education.

60 (c) For purposes of this section, "career cluster" means a range of
61 occupations which share a set of skills and knowledge organized
62 under the federal career clusters endorsed by the Office of Vocational
63 and Adult Education under the United States Department of
64 Education. Such skills and knowledge include (1) academic and
65 technical skills related to the type of employment and (2) general
66 employability skills. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation
67 with other state, regional and local agencies, business and industry
68 and labor organizations, shall maintain a list of [state] federally
69 recognized career clusters and skill standards for each such career
70 cluster, along with the projected occupation growth area clusters
71 within the state identified by labor market projections provided by the
72 Labor Department.

73 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-20b of the general statutes is
74 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
75 *1, 2007*):

76 (c) The employment of students in programs established pursuant
77 to section 10-20a, as amended by this act, shall be in compliance with
78 sections 31-23 and 31-58 and shall be paid employment, unless the
79 Labor Commissioner, or [his] the commissioner's designee, in
80 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, or [his] the

81 commissioner's designee, receives and approves a written request from
82 the principal of the school or the chief executive officer of the agency
83 operating the program in which the student is enrolled, or the
84 designee of such principal or chief executive officer, that such
85 employment not be paid because of worksite experiences that are
86 generally not paid employment, such as community service activities.
87 The terms of compensation shall be (1) negotiated between the
88 employer and such principal or chief executive officer, or the designee
89 of such principal or chief executive officer, (2) accepted by the student,
90 (3) based on the nature of the work and the status of the student-
91 worker as a student, [and] (4) reasonable for the actual work
92 performed, and (5) in compliance with the provisions of title 31
93 concerning the employment of minors.

94 Sec. 3. Section 10-20d of the general statutes is repealed and the
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

96 (a) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Labor
97 Commissioner and the Commissioners of Economic and Community
98 Development and Higher Education, shall, within the limits of
99 available appropriations, provide grants to [local and regional boards
100 of education, the vocational-technical school system,] postsecondary
101 institutions, regional workforce development boards, regional
102 educational service centers and other appropriate agencies and
103 organizations to support the development [and implementation] of
104 educators administering programs leading to a Connecticut career
105 certificate pursuant to section 10-20a, as amended by this act.

106 [(b) In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the Commissioner
107 of Education shall give priority to interdistrict programs and programs
108 operated in priority school districts, as described in section 10-266p.
109 Grant applications shall include documentation of review and
110 comment by the regional school-to-career partnership established by
111 the Commissioner of Education for the region in which the program is
112 proposed to operate.]

113 [(c)] (b) If the Commissioner of Education finds that some or all of

114 the amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this section is used for
 115 purposes which are not in conformity with sections 10-20a to 10-20d,
 116 inclusive, as amended by this act, or is used to reduce the local share of
 117 support for schools or to supplant a previous source of funding, the
 118 commissioner may require repayment of such grant to the state.

119 [(d)] (c) Each grant recipient shall submit to the Commissioner of
 120 Education, at such time and in such manner as [he] the commissioner
 121 prescribes, a biennial program evaluation report.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	10-20a
Sec. 2	July 1, 2007	10-20b(c)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2007	10-20d

ED 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 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill codifies current practice and thus has no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1285*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CAREER
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill updates the Connecticut Career Certificate Program to reflect current practice and federal funding requirements. Under the program, the education commissioner gives certificates to high school and postsecondary school students who successfully complete school-to-career programs approved by the education and labor commissioners consisting of school- and work-based instruction and connecting activities that coordinate the two.

In accordance with current practice, the bill eliminates the education commissioner's authority to award program grants to local and regional boards of education and the vocational-technical school system. It changes the focus of the grants from supporting development and implementation of career certificate programs to developing the educators administering the programs.

The bill also:

1. eliminates the requirement that the education commissioner establish regional school-to-career partnerships to review and comment on the career certificate programs in their regions,
2. requires the school-based instruction for the programs to include instruction in workplace safety awareness,
3. organizes the program under the 16 federally recognized career clusters and requires the education commissioner to keep a list of those clusters instead of the eight state-recognized clusters, and

4. requires the commissioner to maintain a list of projected occupation growth areas in Connecticut identified and provided by the state labor department.

The bill explicitly requires that student employment under a career certificate program comply with the state minimum wage law and with the law prohibiting minors under ages 16 and 18 from doing certain types of work. It also requires the terms of the student's compensation to comply with state labor laws governing employment of minors.

Finally, it designates the programs as "career pathway" programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PARTNERSHIPS

The bill eliminates the regional school-to-career partnerships. Under current law, partnerships must include, at least, educators; students; and representatives of school boards, postsecondary institutions, regional workforce development boards, business and industry, and labor organizations.

BACKGROUND

Federally Recognized Career Clusters

The federal Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education recognizes the following career clusters:

1. agriculture, food, and natural resources;
2. architecture and construction;
3. arts, audio-visual technology, and communications;
4. business, management, and administration;
5. education and training;
6. finance;

7. government and public administration;
8. health science;
9. hospitality and tourism;
10. human services;
11. information technology;
12. law, public safety, and security;
13. manufacturing;
14. marketing, sales, and service;
15. science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and
16. transportation, distribution, and logistics.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/19/2007)