



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 447

January Session, 2007

Senate Bill No. 1293

Senate, April 11, 2007

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING DATA UNDER THE FEDERAL TRADE
ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ACT.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 31-254 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2007*):

4 (a) (1) Each employer, whether or not otherwise subject to this
5 chapter, shall keep accurate records of employment as defined in
6 subsection (a) of section 31-222, containing such information as the
7 administrator may by regulation prescribe in order to effectuate the
8 purposes of this chapter. Such records shall be open to, and available
9 for, inspection and copying by the administrator or his authorized
10 representatives at any reasonable time and as often as may be
11 necessary. The administrator may require from any employer, whether
12 or not otherwise subject to this chapter, any sworn or unsworn reports
13 with respect to persons employed by him which are necessary for the

14 effective administration of this chapter. [Information] Except as
15 provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, information thus
16 obtained shall not be published or be open to public inspection, other
17 than to public employees in the performance of their public duties, in
18 any manner revealing the employee's or the employer's identity, but
19 any claimant at a hearing before a commissioner shall be supplied with
20 information from such records to the extent necessary for the proper
21 presentation of his claim. Any employee of the administrator, or any
22 other public employee, who violates any provision of this section shall
23 be fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more
24 than six months or both and shall be dismissed from the service.
25 Reports or records which have been required by the administrator and
26 which have been used in computing benefit rights of claimants or in
27 the determination of the amounts and rates of contributions shall be
28 preserved by the administrator for a period of at least four years.
29 Those records or reports required by the administrator which have not
30 been used for the purpose of computing benefit rights or in the
31 determination of the amounts or rates of contributions shall be
32 preserved by the administrator for at least two and one-half years.
33 Such records or reports may, after preservation for the minimum
34 period required by this section, be destroyed by the administrator in
35 his discretion, notwithstanding the provisions of section 11-8a.
36 Notwithstanding any of the disclosure provisions of this chapter, the
37 administrator shall provide upon request of the public agency
38 administering the TANF and child support programs, any information
39 in his possession relating to individuals: [(1)] (A) Who are receiving,
40 have received, or have applied for unemployment insurance; [(2)] (B)
41 the amount of benefits being received; [(3)] (C) the current home
42 address of such individuals; [, and (4)] and (D) whether any offer of
43 work has been refused and, if so, a description of the job and the terms,
44 conditions, and rate of pay therefor. Notwithstanding any of the
45 disclosure provisions of this chapter, the administrator shall provide,
46 upon request of the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation, its officers
47 or employees, any information in his possession relating to the current
48 residence address or place of employment of any individual who has

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 \$
Labor Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential \$250,000	Potential \$250,000
Judicial Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires authorized users of the CTWorks Business System to agree to confidentiality safeguards in order to access federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) data. The cost associated with programming to integrate TAA data into the CTWorks Business System is approximately \$250,000; however, federal funds from the United States Department of Labor are expected to cover these costs.

The bill also imposes a fine of up to \$200 or imprisonment for up to six months on any person who violates the provisions of the bill. Any revenue from criminal fines imposed under the bill or marginal cost for incarceration and/or probation supervision in the community as a result of the bill would be minimal.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1293*****AN ACT CONCERNING DATA UNDER THE FEDERAL TRADE
ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ACT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires authorized users of the CTWorks Business System (the Labor Department's database of displaced workers and others seeking work) to agree in writing to confidentiality safeguards in order to access federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) information added to the system. The bill requires each authorized user to reimburse the department for all costs incurred for disclosing the information. It also prohibits system information from being disclosed to any unauthorized user, except that aggregate reports that do not reveal identifiable individual data may be disclosed.

Any person who violates the bill's provisions will be (1) fined up to \$200, imprisoned up to six months, or both and (2) prohibited from any further access to the system's information.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

CTWORKS BUSINESS SYSTEM

The Labor Department has merged data on individuals looking for work from several programs (including the federal Workforce Investment Act, Connecticut Jobs First Employment Services) into one database. The bill's confidentiality safeguards will allow federal TAA data to be merged into the system while addressing federal confidentiality requirements.

BACKGROUND***Federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)***

This program provides various forms of employment assistance to

individuals who lost their job, or experienced a loss of work hours, due to increased foreign imports or production shifts to certain countries. For example, a layoff at a factory can be designated TAA eligible, which allows the individuals who lost their jobs to apply individually for assistance with retraining, education, and job-search activities.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/01/2007)

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10 Nay 3 (03/28/2007)