



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 1285

LCO No. 4699

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:

(ED)

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 Section 10-20a of the general statutes is repealed and the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 31-58a 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) be 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	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-20a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-20b(c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-20d

Statement of Purpose:

To amend the Connecticut career certificate program statutes to make them consistent with federal statutes, including the deletion of obsolete provisions that were required under the expired federal School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]