



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5133

February Session, 2008

* HB05133KIDAPP030608 *

AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH POLICY AND CONTINUATION OF THE YOUTH FUTURES COMMITTEE FUNCTION.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2008, the
2 Office of Workforce Competitiveness, in consultation with the
3 Connecticut Employment and Training Commission, shall convene a
4 Youth Policy Council to continue the work of the former Youth
5 Futures Committee, established by public act 06-182, and provide for
6 implementation of the recommendations in the report of said Youth
7 Futures Committee. The overall mission of the Youth Policy Council
8 shall be to support positive youth development for all Connecticut
9 youth between the ages of twelve and twenty-one, and to assist such
10 youth in entering the state's workforce.

11 (b) The Youth Policy Council shall consist of the following: (1) Six
12 members of the General Assembly, one each appointed by the speaker
13 of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the
14 Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the
15 majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of
16 Representatives, and the minority leader of the Senate; (2) the
17 Governor or the Governor's designee; (3) the Commissioners of
18 Education, Higher Education, Children and Families, Public Health,
19 Social Services, and Mental Health and Addiction Services and the

20 Labor Commissioner or said commissioners' designees; (4) the
21 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the secretary's
22 designee; (5) the director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness
23 or the director's designee; (6) the executive director of the Commission
24 on Children or the executive director's designee; (7) the executive
25 director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch
26 or the executive director's designee; and (8) a representative from the
27 Connecticut Youth Services Association designated by the president of
28 the association. The director of the Office of Workforce
29 Competitiveness or the director's designee shall be the chairperson of
30 the council. All appointments to the council shall be made no later
31 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
32 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

33 (c) The Youth Policy Council shall: (1) (A) Receive information from
34 other entities involved in services for children and youth, including,
35 but not limited to, the Youth Vision Team, the Connecticut
36 Employment and Training Commission Youth Committee, the Early
37 Childhood Education Cabinet, the Governor's Early Childhood
38 Research and Policy Council, the Child Poverty and Prevention
39 Council and the Commission on Children; and (B) share information
40 with other entities serving youth to improve communication and
41 collaboration to better meet the needs of youth; (2) improve
42 coordination, through the results-based accountability process, with
43 other state-wide entities that focus on youth services; (3) conduct
44 policy-relevant research and analysis through partnerships and
45 subcontracts; (4) collect, organize, analyze and publish data, with
46 contracted help on database issues and other data-related work; (5)
47 develop guidelines for the delivery of youth services based on
48 appropriate outcomes consistent with positive youth development; (6)
49 make policy recommendations to the General Assembly and the
50 Governor; (7) work with appropriate state agencies and local service
51 providers at the community level, beginning with one or more pilot
52 projects in selected regions, to develop community-based strategic
53 plans for the delivery of community-level services that advance

54 positive youth development. Such plans shall include an assessment of
55 the existing levels of: (A) Funding resources; (B) youth service delivery
56 capacity; and (C) local planning and implementation capacity; (8)
57 recommend changes to existing state policies and procedures to
58 facilitate local implementation of pilot programs aimed at the council's
59 target population pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and to
60 establish a framework for such implementation with clear guidelines
61 that are flexible but have specific objectives; (9) leverage financial
62 support and coinvestment for planning and piloting local efforts; (10)
63 (A) issue reports on participation and outcomes for such target
64 population, (B) build capacity for public reporting and analysis, and
65 (C) measure progress toward attainment of positive youth outcomes;
66 and (11) facilitate systems development across state and local entities,
67 including memoranda of agreement, joint requests for proposals,
68 common core data sets, case management agreements across agencies
69 and blended funding demonstrations.

70 (d) For purposes of this section, positive youth outcomes include,
71 but are not limited to, (1) improved school attendance, (2) improved
72 academic and technical proficiencies, (3) improvement in the
73 percentage of youth obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent,
74 (4) increases in the percentage of youth who enroll in and complete
75 postsecondary school educational and training programs, (5)
76 enrollment in employment programs that build skills, (6) full
77 employment for youth not enrolled in educational programs, (7)
78 opportunities to be engaged in public service, (8) stable and safe
79 housing, (9) access to quality mental and physical health providers,
80 and (10) opportunities to develop leadership and mentoring skills.

81 (e) On or before January 1, 2010, the Office of Workforce
82 Competitiveness shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
83 general statutes, to the Governor and the General Assembly on (1) the
84 progress made in achieving positive outcomes for youth and the total
85 state expenditures dedicated to achieving such positive outcomes, and
86 (2) policy recommendations and future funding needs.

87 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Youth Policy Council
88 established pursuant to section 1 of this act shall, within available
89 appropriations and funds received pursuant to subsection (b) of this
90 section: (1) Coordinate the mapping and analysis of resources and
91 youth services as pilot programs in one or more local communities; (2)
92 collect data on the services available to youth served by selected local
93 providers and related state agencies, and improve collaboration and
94 accountability among such providers and agencies, including
95 collaboration on contracting for services and a focus on data and
96 outcomes compatible with the results-based accountability principles;
97 (3) coordinate local data collection with the council's data collection
98 and management efforts; (4) focus pilot programs on the facilitation of
99 public-private partnerships between state agencies and local service
100 providers using blended funding and collaboration among state
101 agencies, local service providers and local workforce investment
102 boards; and (5) use pilot programs to test ideas through
103 implementation, address problems and replicate programs more
104 broadly as program operation proves successful and linkages are
105 formed and strengthened at the local level. Collaboration at the local
106 community level may include community colleges, youth service
107 bureaus and philanthropic organizations, as well as local service
108 providers and state agencies. For purposes of this subsection,
109 collaboration includes memoranda of agreement to develop shared or
110 common requests for proposals and common core data sets that can
111 lead to achievement of outcomes compatible with results-based
112 accountability principles.

113 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness may solicit and receive
114 matching funds from philanthropic organizations. The council shall
115 use such funds for purposes of sections 1 and 2 of this act.

116 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of five hundred thousand
117 dollars is appropriated to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness,
118 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the
119 Youth Policy Council for the purposes of sections 1 and 2 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

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Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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