



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5133**

February Session, 2008

\*            HB05133APP            040108            \*

**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 this section and section 1 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

