



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 465

February Session, 2008

* SB00465HEDAPP030708 *

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADULT LITERACY BOARD.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) As used in sections 1 to 7,
2 inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Board" means the Adult Literacy Leadership Board;

4 (2) "Adult literacy programs" and "adult literacy services" means
5 services aimed at improving the ability of persons sixteen years of age
6 or over who are not enrolled in secondary school to read, write and
7 speak in English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency
8 necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in
9 society;

10 (3) "Adult education" means a program established pursuant to part
11 V of chapter 164 of the general statutes;

12 (4) "Vision statement" means a written projected overview of the
13 state's adult literacy programs and services at a specified future date;
14 and

15 (5) "Mission statement" means a written declaration of the purpose
16 of the state's adult literacy programs and services, including elements
17 that address the goals of helping adults develop the reading, critical

18 thinking, problem solving skills and communication skills they need to
19 be self-sufficient, active citizens, effective parents and qualified,
20 competitive workers.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established the
22 Adult Literacy Leadership Board, within the Office of Workforce
23 Competitiveness. The board shall consist of ten voting members and
24 nine ex-officio nonvoting members. (1) The voting members shall be
25 appointed as follows: (A) Four appointed by the Governor, (i) one of
26 whom shall be a director of a local adult education program, (ii) one of
27 whom shall be a director of a regional adult education program, (iii)
28 one of whom represents a public library, and (iv) one of whom
29 represents a business that has employees who lack basic literacy skills
30 or proficiency in the English language; (B) one appointed by the
31 speaker of the House of Representatives who represents a regional
32 workforce development board; (C) one appointed by the president pro
33 tempore of the Senate who represents organized labor; (D) one
34 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who
35 represents a voluntary literacy organization; (E) one appointed by the
36 majority leader of the Senate who represents an adult literacy
37 advocacy group; (F) one appointed by the minority leader of the
38 House of Representatives who shall represent the interests of persons
39 receiving adult literacy services provided by the community-technical
40 colleges; and (G) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate
41 who represents a community organization that operates an adult
42 literacy program. (2) The ex-officio nonvoting members shall consist of
43 the following members, or their designees: The Commissioners of
44 Correction, Education, Higher Education, Economic and Community
45 Development and Social Services, the Labor Commissioner, the
46 director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, the Secretary of
47 the Office of Policy and Management and the chancellor of the regional
48 community-technical colleges. The voting members shall serve for a
49 term of four years. The members of the commission shall serve without
50 compensation but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
51 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of

52 their duties.

53 (b) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the board from
54 among its voting members. The board may create other positions it
55 deems necessary and may fill such positions from among its members.
56 The powers of the board shall be vested in and exercised by not less
57 than five members of the board. Five members of the board shall
58 constitute a quorum. The board may solicit and receive funds from any
59 public or private sources to carry out its activities.

60 (c) The board shall terminate on July 1, 2012.

61 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Adult Literacy Leadership
62 Board shall:

63 (1) Create vision and mission statements, by January 1, 2009;

64 (2) Develop and update a three-year strategic plan, in accordance
65 with section 4 of this act;

66 (3) Report recommendations annually to the Governor and General
67 Assembly for sources and levels of funding to meet the goals and
68 objectives outlined in the strategic plan, in accordance with section 4 of
69 this act;

70 (4) Establish performance measures for the adult literacy system
71 and use them to track progress toward the goals and objectives
72 outlined in the strategic plan;

73 (5) Develop and maintain an online centralized inventory of all
74 adult literacy programs and services offered in the state that includes a
75 description of the type of service, the time and place it is offered and
76 any eligibility requirements or fees;

77 (6) Establish standards for adult literacy service providers,
78 including requirements for waiting lists;

79 (7) Require each adult literacy service provider in the state to

80 maintain a waiting list and report the information to the board, in
81 accordance with standards it establishes;

82 (8) Promote coordination and collaboration of delivery of adult
83 literacy programs and services through regionalized service delivery
84 and community partnerships; and

85 (9) Prepare an annual state report card on the status of adult literacy
86 in Connecticut, in accordance with section 5 of this act.

87 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) On or before January 1, 2009,
88 the board shall develop a three-year strategic plan for an adult literacy
89 system in this state.

90 (b) The strategic plan shall: (1) Include goals for an adult literacy
91 system including a goal of reducing by a certain percentage each year
92 over a specified period of time the number of adults in this state who
93 lack a high school diploma or proficiency in the English language; (2)
94 define the roles of all adult literacy service providers in the state,
95 examining in particular, (A) governance responsibility for adult
96 education, (B) discrepancies in service delivery and ways to promote
97 regionalized service delivery and community partnerships, and (C)
98 resources for system-wide administration, management, research and
99 coordination; (3) include priorities for services that (A) improve the
100 quality of instruction, (B) improve access and retention, and (C)
101 identify target populations for services; (4) include an analysis of
102 funding requirements of all adult literacy services, identifying (A)
103 estimated resources needed to implement the plan's goals, (B) current
104 sources of funding and possibilities for reallocation, and (C) potential
105 alternatives and new sources of funding; and (5) outline funding
106 policies that provide (A) financial support and incentives to support
107 collaborative delivery of services, and (B) adequate resources for state-
108 funded agencies with adult literacy responsibilities, including public
109 libraries, to carry out data collection, analysis, evaluation and research
110 related to program effectiveness and best practices.

111 (c) The board shall designate regional planning workgroups
112 consisting of representatives of adult literacy service providers and
113 persons receiving adult literacy services to assist in developing and
114 reviewing the strategic plan for adult literacy. The board shall review
115 annually the implementation of the strategic plan and make any
116 necessary revisions. The board shall update the strategic plan every
117 three years.

118 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The state report card, prepared
119 pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 3 of this act, shall provide
120 information on the status of adult literacy in the state. The report card
121 shall identify each major component of the adult literacy system,
122 including, but not limited to, adult education, family literacy, and
123 workplace literacy, and provide for each component: (1) The number
124 and demographics of persons served, (2) a description of sources of
125 funding, and (3) performance measures for adult literacy services.

126 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) On or before January 1, 2009,
127 and annually thereafter, the board shall report, in accordance with
128 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and to the joint
129 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
130 matters relating to correction, education, higher education, economic
131 and community development, labor and human services on (1) the
132 progress made in developing and implementing the strategic plan, (2)
133 recommendations for sources and levels of funding to meet the goals
134 outlined in the strategic plan, and (3) the report card prepared
135 pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 3 of this act.

136 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The board may request other
137 state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Departments of
138 Education, Higher Education, Economic and Community
139 Development and Social Services, the Labor Department, the Office of
140 Workforce Competitiveness and the Board of Trustees of the
141 Community-Technical Colleges to provide information, reports and
142 other assistance in carrying out its duties.

143 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) One hundred seventy-six
144 thousand dollars of the sum appropriated to the Office of Workforce
145 Competitiveness in section 1 of public act 07-1 of the June special
146 session shall not lapse on June 30, 2008, but shall be available for the
147 fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 for the staffing of the Adult Literacy
148 Board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

HED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP