General Assembly
Amendment

February Session, 2008
LCO No. 5768

Offered by:
SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.
REP. WILLIS, 64th Dist.
REP. PAWELKIEWICZ, 49th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 465 File No. 598 Cal. No. 395

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADULT LITERACY BOARD."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following in lieu thereof:

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

(1) "Board" means the Adult Literacy Leadership Board established pursuant to section 2 of this act;

(2) "Commission" means the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission;

(3) "Adult literacy programs" and "adult literacy services" means services established pursuant to Title II of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1988, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended, that are aimed at improving the ability of persons sixteen years of age or over who are not enrolled in secondary school to read, write and speak in English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency..."
necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in
society;

(4) "Adult education" means a program established pursuant to
sections 10-67, 10-69 to 10-71a, inclusive, and 10-73a to 10-73c,
inclusive, of the general statutes;

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

(6) "Mission statement" means a written declaration of the purpose
of the state's adult literacy programs and services, including elements
that address the goals of helping adults develop the reading, critical
thinking, problem solving skills and communication skills they need to
be self-sufficient, active citizens, effective parents and qualified,
competitive workers.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2008) (a) The Office of Workforce
Competitiveness shall establish the Adult Literacy Leadership Board
as a standing committee of the Connecticut Employment and Training
Commission to review and advise the commission on workforce
investment and adult literacy programs and services. The board shall
consist of seven voting members and ten ex-officio nonvoting
members.

(1) The voting members shall include one member who; (A) directs
a community literacy program; (B) directs a regional literacy program;
(C) represents a public library; (D) directs a literacy outcome study
from a private university; (E) directs a literacy outcome study from a
public university; (F) represents an adult literacy advocacy group; and
(G) has experience in research, planning and evaluation in literacy. The
Governor shall appoint the chairperson, who shall be a voting member
and described in this subdivision. Following the appointment of the
chairperson, such chairperson, in consultation with the director of the
Office of Workforce Competitiveness, shall appoint the remaining six
voting members as described in this subdivision.
(2) The ex-officio nonvoting members shall consist of the following members, or their designees: The Commissioners of Correction, Education, Higher Education, Economic and Community Development and Social Services, the Labor Commissioner, the director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the chancellor of the regional community-technical colleges and the State Librarian.

(3) The voting members shall serve for a term of four years.

(b) The chairperson of the board may create positions that the board deems necessary and may fill such positions from among its members. The powers of the board shall be vested in and exercised by not less than four members of the board. Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

(c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness may solicit and receive funds on behalf of the board and the commission from any public or private sources to carry out its activities.

(d) The board shall terminate as a standing committee of the commission on July 1, 2012.

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

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

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

(3) Report recommendations annually through the commission to the Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with section 6 of this act, for sources and levels of funding to meet the goals and objectives outlined in the strategic plan under section 4 of this act;

(4) Establish results-based accountability measures for the adult literacy system and use them to track progress toward the goals and
objectives outlined in the strategic plan;

(5) With state-agency partners, develop and maintain an online centralized inventory of all adult literacy programs and services offered in the state that includes a description of the type of service, the time and place it is offered and any eligibility requirements or fees;

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

(7) Require each adult literacy service provider in the state to maintain a waiting list and report the information to the board, in accordance with standards the board establishes;

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

(9) Prepare information on the status of adult literacy in this state for inclusion in the commission's annual report card, in accordance with section 31-3bb of the general statutes and section 5 of this act; and

(10) Pilot the best practices which are identified through the research and analysis of adult literacy programs state-wide.

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

(b) The strategic plan shall: (1) Be consistent with and guided by the planning requirements of Title I and Title II of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1988, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended; (2) integrate adult education and literacy with workforce training, establishing a comprehensive approach to adult workforce education in this state; (3) include goals for an adult literacy system, including a goal of reducing by a certain percentage each year over a specified period of time the number of adults in this state who lack a high school diploma or proficiency in the English language; (4) define the roles of
all adult literacy service providers in the state, examining in particular, (A) governance responsibility for adult education, (B) discrepancies in service delivery and ways to promote regionalized service delivery and community partnerships, and (C) resources for system-wide administration, management, research and coordination; (5) include priorities for services that (A) improve the quality of instruction, (B) improve access and retention, and (C) identify target populations for services; (6) include an analysis of funding requirements of all adult literacy services, identifying (A) estimated resources needed to implement the plan's goals, (B) current sources of funding and possibilities for reallocation, and (C) potential alternatives and new sources of funding; and (7) outline funding policies that provide (A) financial support and incentives to support collaborative delivery of services, and (B) adequate resources for state-funded agencies with adult literacy responsibilities, including public libraries, to carry out data collection, analysis, evaluation and research related to program effectiveness and best practices.

(c) The board shall designate regional planning workgroups under the aegis of the regional workforce development boards consisting of representatives of adult literacy service providers and persons receiving adult literacy services to assist in developing and reviewing the strategic plan for adult literacy. The board shall review annually the implementation of the strategic plan and make any necessary revisions. The board shall update the strategic plan every three years.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2008) The Connecticut Employment and Training Commission's annual report card, prepared pursuant to section 31-3bb of the general statutes and subdivision (9) of section 3 of this act, shall provide information on the status of adult literacy in the state. The commission's annual report card shall identify each major component of the adult literacy system, including, but not limited to, adult education, family literacy and workplace literacy, and provide for each component: (1) The number and demographics of persons served, (2) a description of sources of funding, and (3) performance measures for adult literacy services.
Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2008) On or before January 1, 2009,
and annually thereafter, the Connecticut Employment and Training
Commission shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
general statutes, to the Governor and to the joint standing committees
of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
judiciary, education, higher education, economic and community
development, labor and human services on (1) the board's progress in
developing and implementing the strategic plan, (2) the board's
recommendations for sources and levels of funding to meet the goals
outlined in the strategic plan, and (3) the adult literacy section of the
commission's annual report card prepared pursuant to subdivision (9)
of section 3 of this act.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2008) The Office of Workforce
Competitiveness, in accordance with subsection (c) of section 4-124w
of the general statutes, may request other state agencies, including, but
not limited to, the Departments of Education, Higher Education,
Economic and Community Development and Social Services, the
Labor Department, and the Board of Trustees of the Community-
Technical Colleges to provide information, reports and other assistance
to the board in carrying out its duties, pursuant to sections 2 to 4,
inclusive, of this act, and to the Connecticut Employment and Training
Commission in carrying out its duties pursuant to section 5 of this act."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following
sections:

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