



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Governor's Bill No. 6370

LCO No. 2937

*02937 _____ *

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:

REP. CAFERO, 142nd Dist.

SEN. MCKINNEY, 28th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING A MIDDLE COLLEGE SYSTEM.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) There is established a
2 Board of Trustees for the Middle College System, which shall have
3 oversight over the Board of Technical High Schools and the Board of
4 Trustees for Community-Technical Colleges. The Board of Trustees for
5 the Middle College System shall consist of twenty-four members
6 appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be the Secretary of the
7 Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee. The
8 members shall serve for terms of four years commencing on July first
9 in the year of their appointment.

10 (b) There is established a Board of Technical High Schools, which
11 shall have oversight over the Connecticut technical high schools. Such
12 board shall consist of twelve members appointed by the Governor. The
13 members shall serve for terms of four years commencing on July first
14 in the year of their appointment.

15 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) On and after July 1, 2009, the
16 Board of Trustees for the Middle College System shall assume all
17 responsibilities of the State Board of Education regarding the
18 vocational-technical school system and the responsibilities of the Board
19 of Trustees for Community-Technical Colleges pursuant to any
20 provision of the general statutes. The transfer of functions, powers,
21 duties, obligations, including, but not limited to, contract obligations,
22 the continuance of orders and regulations, the effect upon pending
23 actions and proceedings, the completion of unfinished business and
24 the transfer of records and property between (1) the vocational-
25 technical school system of the State Board of Education as said system
26 existed immediately prior to July 1, 2009, and the Middle College
27 System, and (2) the Board of Trustees for Community-Technical
28 Colleges, as said board existed immediately prior to July 1, 2009, and
29 the Middle College System shall both be governed by the provisions of
30 sections 4-38d and 4-39 of the general statutes.

31 (b) Whenever the term "State Board of Education" is used or referred
32 to in the following sections of the general statutes, the term "Board of
33 Technical High Schools" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 10-15d, 10-
34 95 to 10-95e, inclusive, 10-95i to 10-95n, inclusive, 10-97, 10-98a and 10-
35 99.

36 (c) Whenever the term "regional vocational-technical schools" is
37 used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the
38 term "Connecticut technical high schools" shall be substituted in lieu
39 thereof: 10-15d, 10-95 to 10-95e, inclusive, 10-95i to 10-95n, inclusive,
40 10-97, 10-98a and 10-99.

41 (d) Whenever the term "Commissioner of Education" is used or
42 referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the term
43 "superintendent of Connecticut Technical High Schools" shall be
44 substituted in lieu thereof: 10-15d, 10-95 to 10-95e, inclusive, 10-95i to
45 10-95n, inclusive, 10-97, 10-98a and 10-99.

46 Sec. 3. Section 4-124w of the general statutes is repealed and the

47 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

48 (a) There [is established an] shall be within the Middle College
49 System an Office of Workforce Competitiveness. [that shall be within
50 the Office of Policy and Management for administrative purposes
51 only.]

52 (b) The office shall:

53 (1) Be the Governor's principal workforce development policy
54 advisor;

55 (2) Be the liaison between the Governor and any local, state or
56 federal organizations and entities with respect to workforce
57 development matters, including implementation of the Workforce
58 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as amended from time to time;
59 [amended;]

60 (3) Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state
61 agencies;

62 (4) Coordinate the state's implementation of the federal Workforce
63 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as amended from time to time,
64 [amended,] and advise and assist the Governor with matters related to
65 said act;

66 (5) Coordinate the development and implementation of strategies
67 regarding technology-based talent and innovation among state and
68 quasi-public agencies, including the creation of a centralized
69 clearinghouse and technical assistance function at the state level to
70 assist applicants in developing small business innovation research
71 programs in conformity with the federal program established pursuant
72 to the Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of
73 1992, P.L. 102-564, as amended from time to time, and other proposals;

74 (6) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
75 involvement of members of the public, the legislature and local

76 officials in workforce development matters, including implementation
77 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as amended
78 from time to time; [amended;]

79 (7) Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, appoint such officials and
80 other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties of
81 the office;

82 (8) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
83 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the
84 provisions of this section and section 20 of public act 00-192*;

85 (9) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions of
86 this section and section 20 of public act 00-192*;

87 (10) Be the lead state agency for the development of employment
88 and training strategies and initiatives required to support
89 Connecticut's position in the knowledge economy; and

90 (11) Not later than October 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, submit
91 a report, with the assistance of the Labor Department, to the Governor
92 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
93 cognizance of matters relating to education, economic development,
94 labor and higher education and employment advancement specifying
95 a forecasted assessment by the Labor Department of workforce
96 shortages in occupations in this state for the succeeding two and five-
97 year periods. The report shall also include recommendations
98 concerning (A) methods to generate a sufficient number of workers to
99 meet identified workforce needs, including, but not limited to,
100 scholarship, school-to-career and internship programs, and (B)
101 methods secondary and higher education and private industry can use
102 to address identified workforce needs.

103 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness may call upon any
104 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state to
105 supply such reports, information and assistance as may be necessary

106 or appropriate in order to carry out the duties and requirements of the
107 Office for Workforce Competitiveness. Each officer or employee of
108 such office, department, board, commission or other agency of the
109 state is authorized and directed to cooperate with the Office of
110 Workforce Competitiveness and to furnish such reports, information
111 and assistance.

112 Sec. 4. Section 31-3b of the general statutes is repealed and the
113 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

114 (a) The Labor Commissioner shall appoint a job training coordinator
115 who shall develop and implement innovative programs which will
116 provide [(1)] job training for [(A)] (1) workers who are needed by
117 industries planning to locate in Connecticut or by industries located in
118 this state, [(B)] (2) unskilled entry level workers, [(C)] (3) workers in
119 need of retraining due to the obsolescence of their skills, and [(D)] (4)
120 workers who need skill training to qualify for advancement. [, (2) an
121 incentive for the establishment of apprenticeship programs in selected
122 occupations; provided no program shall be developed for occupations
123 where prior skill or training is not typically a prerequisite to hiring,
124 and (3) work training opportunities and placement of the chronically
125 unemployed under section 31-3d.]

126 (b) The Labor Commissioner is authorized to establish an
127 interagency program coordinating committee to coordinate the
128 application of all available resources for the purposes of this section.
129 Said committee shall consist of representatives of various employment
130 and training agencies within the Labor Department and
131 representatives of the Department of Education and the Department of
132 Economic and Community Development.

133 (c) The Labor Commissioner may contract with any public or
134 private agency for educational and job training services.

135 (d) The Labor Commissioner may accept and receive funds from
136 any public or private source which become available for the purposes

137 of this section and section 31-3d.

138 Sec. 5. Section 31-3w of the general statutes is repealed and the
139 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

140 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Labor
141 Commissioner, in exercise of any duties including any duties as
142 administrator under chapter 567, shall, within available resources,
143 maintain a state-wide network of job centers which provide to
144 workers, students and employers comprehensive workforce
145 development assistance, including, but not limited to, the following:

146 (1) Unemployment compensation, retraining allowances and other
147 forms of federal and state income support;

148 (2) Career, labor market, educational and job training information,
149 and consumer reports on local training providers;

150 (3) Career planning and job search assistance;

151 (4) Applicant recruitment and screening, assessment of training
152 needs, customized job training pursuant to this chapter,
153 [apprenticeship] programs pursuant to chapter 557 and related
154 consultative services to employers based on their employment needs;

155 (5) Eligibility determinations and referrals to providers of
156 employment and training services; and

157 (6) Access to information regarding job openings and, where
158 appropriate, referral to such openings.

159 (b) In carrying out responsibilities under this section, the
160 commissioner shall:

161 (1) Collaborate with the Connecticut Employment and Training
162 Commission established pursuant to section 31-3h and the regional
163 workforce development boards established pursuant to section 31-3k;

164 (2) Promote coordination of service delivery and collaboration with
165 other public and private providers of education, human services and
166 employment and training services, including, but not limited to, adult
167 education and literacy providers;

168 (3) Consult with the Commissioner of Economic and Community
169 Development to ensure coordination of service delivery to employers;

170 (4) Conduct outreach to employers and trade associations to ensure
171 that services meet the needs of business and industry; and

172 (5) Develop a comprehensive job training assistance application for
173 employer-based training services and programs that allows the
174 applicant to apply for any such assistance offered by the state in one
175 application.

176 Sec. 6. Section 31-22m of the general statutes is repealed and the
177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

178 When used in sections 31-22m to 31-22q, inclusive, as amended by
179 this act, "apprentice" means a person employed under a written
180 agreement to work at and learn a specific trade; "apprentice
181 agreement" means a written agreement entered into by an apprentice,
182 or on his behalf by his parent or guardian, with an employer, or with
183 an association of employers and an organization of employees acting
184 as a joint apprenticeship committee, which agreement provides for not
185 less than two thousand hours of work experience in approved trade
186 training consistent with recognized requirements established by
187 industry or joint labor-industry practice and for the number of hours
188 of related and supplemental instructions prescribed by the Connecticut
189 State Apprenticeship Council or which agreement meets requirements
190 of the federal government for on-the-job training schedules which are
191 essential, in the opinion of the [Labor Commissioner] executive
192 director of the Middle College System, for the development of
193 manpower in Connecticut industries; "council" means the Connecticut
194 State Apprenticeship Council.

195 Sec. 7. Section 31-22n of the general statutes is repealed and the
196 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

197 The Governor shall appoint twelve members to the Connecticut
198 State Apprenticeship Council, each of whom shall have some
199 association with apprentice training. Four shall be representative of
200 Connecticut industry, with one representative each from the
201 manufacturing, building, mechanical and service industries, provided
202 at least one such member represents a business that operates without a
203 collective bargaining agreement; four shall be Connecticut members of
204 national labor organizations with apprentice training programs; four
205 shall represent the public, one of whom shall be the Labor
206 Commissioner. Members shall each serve a term which is coterminous
207 with the term of the Governor, each member to hold office until a
208 successor is appointed. Any vacancy in the membership of the council
209 shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired term. It shall meet on
210 the call of the chairman, who shall be the [Labor Commissioner]
211 executive director of the Middle College System. On or before August
212 first of each year, the council shall prepare a report describing the
213 activities of the council, this report to be included in the Labor
214 Commissioner's report to the Governor. The members of the council
215 shall not be compensated for their services, but the members, except
216 the Labor Commissioner and any state employee, shall be reimbursed
217 for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

218 Sec. 8. Section 31-22p of the general statutes is repealed and the
219 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

220 The [Labor Commissioner] executive director of the Middle College
221 System, with the advice and guidance of the council, shall formulate
222 work training standards which will ensure necessary safeguards for
223 the welfare of apprentices and a full craft experience in any skill, in
224 order to provide equal opportunities to all, without regard to their
225 race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin, and to provide training,
226 employment and upgrading opportunities for disadvantaged workers

227 to acquire a comprehensive skilled work experience and to extend the
228 application of such standards of skill training by inclusion thereof in
229 apprenticeship agreements, and shall bring together representatives of
230 management and labor for the development of training programs and
231 terms of apprenticeship incidental thereto and cooperate with state
232 and federal agencies similarly interested in furtherance of training
233 requirements in keeping with established and new processes of
234 Connecticut industries. The [Labor Commissioner] executive director
235 of the Middle College System shall publish information relating to
236 existing and proposed work standards of apprenticeship, hold area
237 conferences throughout the state for the purpose of promoting interest
238 in skilled trades training and appoint such advisory committees as
239 may be deemed necessary to evaluate the skilled manpower
240 requirements of Connecticut in order to cope with any new
241 technological changes in industry.

242 Sec. 9. Section 31-22r of the general statutes is repealed and the
243 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

244 (a) (1) Each person who registered as an apprentice with the Labor
245 Department before July 1, 2003, and has not completed an
246 apprenticeship as of July 9, 2003, shall pay to the [Labor Department]
247 executive director of the Middle College System a registration fee of
248 twenty-five dollars on or before July 1, 2003, and a renewal registration
249 fee of twenty-five dollars on or before July first of each subsequent
250 year until (A) such registration is withdrawn, or (B) such person has
251 completed an apprenticeship and possesses a valid journey person card
252 of occupational license, if required.

253 (2) Each person who initially registers as an apprentice with the
254 [Labor Department] executive director of the Middle College System
255 on or after July 1, 2003, shall pay to the [Labor Department] executive
256 director of the Middle College System a registration fee of twenty-five
257 dollars at the time of registration and an annual renewal registration
258 fee of twenty-five dollars until (A) such registration is withdrawn, or

259 (B) such person has completed an apprenticeship and possesses a valid
260 journeyman card of occupational license, if required.

261 (b) Each person sponsoring an apprenticeship program registered
262 with the Labor Department as of July 1, 2003, shall pay to the [Labor
263 Department] executive director of the Middle College System an
264 annual registration fee of thirty dollars for each apprentice
265 participating in such program until the apprentice has completed the
266 apprenticeship and possesses a valid journeyman card of
267 occupational license, if required, or such program is cancelled by the
268 sponsor or deregistered for cause by the [Labor Department] executive
269 director of the Middle College System in accordance with regulations
270 adopted pursuant to this chapter, whichever is earlier.

271 (c) Any amount collected by the Labor Department or the executive
272 director of the Middle College System pursuant to this section shall be
273 deposited in the General Fund, [and credited to a separate nonlapsing
274 appropriation to the Labor Department, for the purpose of
275 administering the department's apprentice training program and
276 sections 31-22m to 31-22p, inclusive.]

277 Sec. 10. Section 10-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the
278 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

279 (a) Said board shall have general supervision and control of the
280 educational interests of the state, which interests shall include
281 preschool, elementary and secondary education, special education [,
282 vocational education] and adult education; shall provide leadership
283 and otherwise promote the improvement of education in the state,
284 including research, planning and evaluation and services relating to
285 the provision and use of educational technology, including
286 telecommunications, by school districts; shall prepare such courses of
287 study and publish such curriculum guides including recommendations
288 for textbooks, materials, instructional technological resources and
289 other teaching aids as it determines are necessary to assist school
290 districts to carry out the duties prescribed by law; shall conduct

291 workshops and related activities, including programs of intergroup
292 relations training, to assist teachers in making effective use of such
293 curriculum materials and in improving their proficiency in meeting the
294 diverse needs and interests of pupils; shall keep informed as to the
295 condition, progress and needs of the schools in the state; and shall
296 develop or cause to be developed evaluation and assessment programs
297 designed to measure objectively the adequacy and efficacy of the
298 educational programs offered by public schools and shall selectively
299 conduct such assessment programs annually and report, pursuant to
300 subsection (b) of this section, to the joint standing committee of the
301 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
302 on an annual basis.

303 (b) Said board shall submit to the Governor and to the joint standing
304 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
305 relating to education an account of the condition of the public schools
306 and of the amount and quality of instruction therein and such other
307 information as will assess the true condition, progress and needs of
308 public education.

309 (c) Said board shall prepare every five years a five-year
310 comprehensive plan for elementary, secondary [, vocational, career]
311 and adult education. Said comprehensive plan shall include, but not be
312 limited to, a policy statement of the State Board of Education's long-
313 term goals and short-term objectives, an analysis of cost implications
314 and measurement criteria and how said board's programs and
315 operations relate to such goals and objectives and specific action plans,
316 target dates and strategies and methods of implementation for
317 achieving such goals and objectives. The State Board of Education shall
318 establish every five years an advisory committee to assist the board in
319 the preparation of the comprehensive plan. Members of the advisory
320 committee shall be appointed by the State Board of Education with
321 representation on the committee to include, but not be limited to,
322 representatives of [the Connecticut Advisory Council on Vocational
323 and Career Education,] education organizations, parent organizations,

324 student organizations, business and industry, organized labor and
 325 appropriate state agencies. [Notwithstanding any requirement for
 326 submission of a plan for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984, pursuant
 327 to section 10-96a of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
 328 January 1, 1983, the State Board of Education shall not be required to
 329 submit the master plan for vocational and career education but shall
 330 submit, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the comprehensive
 331 plan for elementary and secondary, vocational, career and adult
 332 education to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the
 333 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
 334 on or before September 1, 1996, and every five years thereafter
 335 provided, the master plan currently in effect shall remain in effect until
 336 the comprehensive plan is submitted.] The State Board of Education
 337 shall be responsible for annually updating the progress in
 338 implementing the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan and
 339 shall report on such progress to the Governor and to said standing
 340 committee annually. The State Board of Education shall provide
 341 opportunity for public comment prior to its adoption of a plan.

342 (d) Not later than December 15, 2004, and annually thereafter,
 343 within available appropriations, the board shall make reasonable
 344 efforts to ensure that summaries of reports required pursuant to
 345 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 10-16r are submitted. The
 346 board shall summarize the reports and submit such summaries, in
 347 accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
 348 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

349 Sec. 11. Sections 10-95h, 10-95m, 31-22s and 31-3kk of the general
 350 statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2009*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	4-124w

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	31-3b
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	31-3w
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	31-22m
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	31-22n
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	31-22p
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	31-22r
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-4
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Middle College System by consolidating the regional vocational-technical high schools with the community-technical colleges.

[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.]