



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 589

February Session, 2010

Substitute House Bill No. 5126

House of Representatives, April 19, 2010

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Chemical Innovations Institute within The University of Connecticut
3 Health Center that shall (1) foster green job growth and safer
4 workplaces through encouraging clean technology innovation and
5 utilization of green chemistry, and (2) provide assistance to businesses,
6 state agencies and nonprofit organizations that seek to utilize
7 alternatives to chemicals that are harmful to public health and the
8 environment.

9 (b) The institute shall be overseen by a board of directors. The board
10 of directors shall consist of (1) a member appointed by The University
11 of Connecticut Health Center who shall be an ex-officio member of the
12 board and shall serve as the executive director of the institute, and (2)
13 seven members appointed as follows: (A) One by the Governor, who

14 represents a large Connecticut manufacturer that participates in an
15 international marketplace and that has successfully implemented or is
16 in the process of implementing green chemistry into its manufacturing
17 process; (B) one by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
18 represents a small Connecticut manufacturer; (C) one by the speaker of
19 the House of Representatives, who represents a state-wide
20 occupational health and safety organization or union health and safety
21 committee; (D) one by the majority leader of the Senate, who has
22 expertise working with businesses to implement sustainable business
23 practices; (E) one by the majority leader of the House of
24 Representatives, who represents a state-wide environmental health
25 nonprofit organization; (F) one by the minority leader of the Senate,
26 who is a health professional or scientist with expertise regarding the
27 health effects of prenatal exposure to chemicals of concern or
28 occupational environmental health; and (G) one by the minority leader
29 of the House of Representatives, who has green chemistry training and
30 expertise.

31 (c) Initial appointments to the board shall be made on or before
32 August 15, 2010. In the event that an appointing authority fails to
33 appoint an initial board member by August 31, 2010, the president pro
34 tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives
35 shall jointly appoint a board member who meets the applicable
36 qualifications for such appointment and such board member shall
37 serve a full term. The term for the initial board member appointed by
38 the Governor shall be two years. The term for the initial board
39 members appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and
40 the speaker of the House of Representatives shall be three years. The
41 term for the initial board member appointed by the majority and the
42 minority leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall
43 be four years. Any person appointed to the board after such initial
44 appointments shall serve a term of four years.

45 (d) The board shall appoint two members to serve as the
46 cochairpersons of the board. The board shall meet at the discretion of
47 the cochairpersons provided it shall meet not less than once per year.

48 A quorum of the members of the board shall be required to conduct
49 any business. Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

50 (e) The institute shall work with businesses, state agencies,
51 nonprofit organizations, workers, and community groups as a resource
52 for information about chemicals that are of concern to public health
53 and the environment, safe alternatives to such chemicals and emerging
54 state and federal chemical regulations. The institute shall: (1) Research
55 and identify chemicals that are important to the state economy, (2)
56 provide research and technical assistance concerning chemicals that
57 are of concern to the environment and public health, as well as
58 alternatives to such chemicals, (3) coordinate and share information
59 with institutes in other states and the interstate chemicals
60 clearinghouse, as described in section 22a-902 of the general statutes,
61 concerning alternative chemicals and the impact of such alternative
62 chemicals on public health and the environment, (4) offer trainings for
63 businesses regarding chemical regulations and such alternative
64 chemicals, and (5) assist businesses in identifying funding to be used
65 for the implementation of sustainable, chemical-related processes by
66 such businesses.

67 (f) The board shall review progress in meeting the duties described
68 in subsection (e) of this section. The board shall work to identify
69 potential funding sources that may be utilized to establish and
70 administer the institute.

71 (g) Not later than January fifteenth of each year and in accordance
72 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the board
73 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General
74 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on
75 the activities of the past year that were performed by the institute in
76 furtherance of the institute's duties. Such report shall include
77 recommendations on options to fund the institute.

78 (h) The board and The University of Connecticut Health Center
79 shall seek federal funds for the administration of the institute. In
80 addition, the board and The University of Connecticut Health Center

81 may seek funding for the institute from nongovernmental foundations,
 82 including, but not limited to, nongovernmental health access
 83 foundations, private citizens, corporations and other government
 84 entities. In the event that the board determines that adequate funds
 85 exist, the institute may establish technical assistance grants to
 86 businesses and nonprofit organizations to assist such businesses and
 87 nonprofit organizations in transitioning to the use of safer chemical
 88 alternatives.

89 (i) The University of Connecticut Health Center shall not be
 90 required to develop, implement and promote the institute described in
 91 this section, if federal, state and private funds, as described in
 92 subsection (h) of this section, in the aggregate, are insufficient to pay
 93 for the initial and ongoing expenses of such institute.

94 (j) The Chemical Innovations Institute shall not engage in lobbying,
 95 as defined in section 1-91 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Subsections (h) to (j), inclusive, were rearranged and rewritten to clarify and consolidate the language of such subsections.

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect
UConn Health Center	Various - See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a Chemical Innovation Institute at the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC). The bill specifies that UCHC is not required to develop the Institute unless it has secured adequate state, federal or private funds to pay for initial and ongoing expenses.

Such an institute would result in significant increased costs for the Health Center for personnel, office and lab space and other costs. The extent of these costs will depend upon the size, scope and structure of the Institute, which is not specified in the bill. The bill directs the Institute's Board to seek federal and other funds for the administration of the Institute.

A potential model for such an Institute could be an academic structure that includes the part-time services of a director, industrial hygienist, and research associate, as well as administrative support and other coordination with UConn faculty. This model is estimated to have annual personnel costs of \$195,000, including fringe benefits. Such a structure would require an estimated \$55,000 annually in rent, consultant costs and various Other Expense costs.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: Agency Estimated Program Model

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5126*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill creates a Chemical Innovations Institute within the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC) and specifies the composition of its board of directors. The institute must (1) foster green job growth and safer workplaces through clean technology and green chemistry and (2) assist businesses, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations seeking to use alternatives to harmful chemicals.

The institute and UCHC must also seek administrative funding from federal entities. Both may seek funding from nongovernmental foundations, including health access foundations, private citizens, corporations, and government entities. The institute is prohibited from lobbying.

The bill does not require UCHC to develop, implement, and promote the institute if there is, in aggregate, insufficient federal, state, and private funding to pay for the initial and continuing expenses of such institute.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

INSTITUTE'S DUTIES

The institute's duties include:

1. working with businesses, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, workers, and community groups as a resource for information about chemicals of concern to public health and the environment, safe alternatives, and emerging state and

- federal regulations;
2. providing research and technical assistance about chemicals of environmental and public health concern and alternatives;
 3. coordinating and sharing information with other states' institutes and the interstate chemicals clearinghouse concerning alternative chemicals and their impact on public health and the environment;
 4. researching and identifying chemicals important to the state economy;
 5. offering businesses training on chemical regulations and alternative chemicals; and
 6. assisting businesses in identifying funding to implement sustainable chemical processes.

If the board of directors determines that adequate funding exists, the institute may establish technical assistance grants to businesses and nonprofit organizations to assist them in switching to the use of safer chemical alternatives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIP

The institute is overseen by an eight-member board of directors. Its executive director, appointed by the UCHC, is an ex-officio board member. The remaining seven members are:

1. one representative of a large Connecticut manufacturer that participates in the international marketplace and has implemented, or is implementing, green chemistry in its manufacturing, appointed by the governor;
2. one representative of a small Connecticut manufacturer, appointed by the Senate president pro tempore;
3. one representative of a statewide occupational health and safety

- organization or union health and safety committee, appointed by the House speaker;
4. one individual with expertise in implementing sustainable business practices, appointed by the Senate majority leader;
 5. one representative of a statewide nonprofit environmental health organization, appointed by the House majority leader;
 6. one health professional or scientist with expertise in the effects of prenatal exposure to chemicals or occupational environmental health, appointed by the Senate minority leader; and
 7. one individual with green chemistry training and expertise, appointed by the House minority leader.

Members must be appointed by August 15, 2010. If an appointing authority fails to appoint an initial board member by August 31, 2010, the bill requires the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker to jointly appoint a qualified board member to serve the full term.

The board must appoint two of its members to serve as co-chairpersons.

MEETING REQUIREMENTS

The board meets at the discretion of the chairpersons, but at least once per year. A quorum of four members is required to conduct business.

MEMBERSHIP TERM

Initial appointees serve staggered terms: (1) the governor's appointee has a two-year term, (2) the appointees of the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker serve three-year terms, and (3) the appointees of the Senate and House majority and minority leaders serve four-year terms. After the initial appointments, all members serve four years.

REPORTING

The board must review the institute’s progress in meeting its stated duties and work to identify potential funding sources. By January 15 annually, it must submit a report to the Environment Committee on the activities of the previous year, including funding option recommendations.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

On April 5, the House referred the bill (File 213) to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, which favorably reported a substitute which exempted the UHCH from developing, implementing, and promoting the institute if funding is insufficient.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 2 (03/15/2010)

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0 (04/08/2010)