



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 6384

**AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 6384, *An Act Transferring The Labor Department's Apprenticeship Program To The Department Of Economic And Community Development*.

This bill transfers the apprenticeship program (and the corresponding non-lapsing apprenticeship fees account) from the Department of Labor to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). This change is required in order to implement the Governor's recommended budget.

The Governor's budget proposes a reconfiguration of DECD in order to create a consistent approach to economic development in the state. As workforce programs play a critical role in fostering this development, the Governor's budget transfers certain programs from the Department of Labor to DECD. This legislative proposal is required in order to implement the transfer of the apprenticeship program to DECD.

This bill will create a streamlined approach to economic development and workforce initiatives in the state.

If implemented, the bill will also require the transfer of the 11 employees at the Department of Labor who administer the apprenticeship program to DECD. Seven staff are funded by the General Fund and the remaining four are funded through apprenticeship fees.