AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE’S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.

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

Section 1. (Effective from passage) (a) The Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, the Labor Department, the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, The University of Connecticut, The University of Connecticut School of Medicine, The University of Connecticut School of Dentistry, the Connecticut State University System and the regional community-technical college system, shall, within existing budgetary resources, develop an initiative to address the state's health care workforce shortage. Such initiative shall seek to increase the number of health care workers in the state through the offering of expanded and enhanced educational programs at public institutions of higher education. The initiative shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Expansion of existing health care related academic programs to promote increased enrollment and retention of students in such programs; (2) development of alternative academic programs that are designed to assimilate displaced workers and other individuals considering a career change into the health care workforce; (3) recruitment and retention of underserved populations into the health care workforce; (4) the establishment of collaborative relationships between health care professions that will assist in improving access to health care; (5) development of distance learning initiatives; (6)
mechanisms for ensuring that a health care professional is practicing at such professional's highest level of competency; (7) streamlined processes within the Department of Public Health which ensure that out-of-state professionals with licensing credentials that are substantially similar to those required by the Department of Public Health are able to expeditiously obtain licensure in this state in order to alleviate workforce shortage areas; and (8) development of on-the-job training initiatives that are designed to provide valuable work experience to those receiving the training and assist in alleviating health care workforce shortages, particularly in areas of the state with underserved populations.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Public Health shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the initiative to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, public health and labor and public employees.

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

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<th>Section 1</th>
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**APP** Joint Favorable Subst.

**LAB** Joint Favorable