
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1002

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS AND COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER CHANGES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATUTES.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner the chairperson of the boards of the state's two quasi-public economic development agencies--Connecticut Development Authority and Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (§§ 30 and 31). Under current law, the commissioner serves as an ex officio member of both agencies' boards while the governor appoints their chairpersons, with the legislature's advice and consent.

The bill moves the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) and its statutory powers, duties, and functions to DECD from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), where it exists for administrative purposes only. The bill makes OWC a unit of DECD, but allows it, instead of the commissioner, to appoint the officials and staff needed to fulfill its purposes.

The bill eliminates the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCCT); transfers its powers, duties, and functions to DECD; and makes many conforming changes. The 28-member commission currently oversees a staff that implements the state's tourism, culture, arts, and historic preservation policies and programs. The bill reconstitutes this body as an advisory committee, retaining its current makeup, and transfers some of CCCT's executive director's duties to the committee's chairperson.

Lastly, the bill requires the DECD commissioner to create job training programs, within available appropriations, and specifies how

she may administer them. She may design the programs to increase employee basic skills, help people overcome employment barriers, sustain high-growth occupations and economically vital industries, and meet the state's job needs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

OWC

Status

Current law places OWC within OPM for administrative purposes only. The bill transfers OWC to DECD, along with its statutory powers, including:

1. serving as the governor's principal workforce development policy advisor and liaison with local, state, and federal workforce development agencies;
2. appointing officials and employees needed to fulfill its statutory purpose;
3. serving as the lead state agency for developing employment and training strategies and initiatives needed to support Connecticut's position in the knowledge economy; and
4. with the Labor Department's help, annually forecasting workforce shortages and recommending ways to meet workforce needs.

OWC Programs and Committees

The transfer to DECD includes the programs OWC administers, within available appropriations, and the committees it supports with staff. The programs include:

1. Connecticut Nursing Facility Incentive,
2. Innovation Challenge Grant,
3. Generating Talent in Institutions of Higher Education and Student Outreach and Development, and

4. Training Workforce for the Film Industry.

The committees include:

1. Connecticut Career Ladder Advisory Committee,
2. Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board,
3. Council of Advisors on Strategies for the Knowledge Economy,
and
4. Industry Advisory Committees for Career Clusters with
Regional Vocational-Technical Schools and Regional
Community-Technical College Systems.

CCCT

Powers and Duties

The bill eliminates CCCT and transfers its powers, duties, and programs to DECD. CCCT's general powers and duties include:

1. marketing and promoting the state's tourism attractions,
2. promoting the arts,
3. preserving historic resources, and
4. submitting an annual culture and tourism budget to OPM.

Current law also assigns many powers and duties to CCCT related specifically to tourism, the arts, and cultural heritage. These include:

1. preparing a strategic plan for promoting tourism and
developing new tourism-related products and services;
2. reviewing and approving the regional tourism districts' annual
budgets;
3. maintaining and operating the visitor welcome centers;
4. administering grants promoting and supporting tourism, the
arts, and historic preservation;

5. identifying and marking historic properties;
6. administering tax credits for rehabilitating historic properties and community investment funds for historic preservation activities; and
7. selecting art for public works projects.

The duties the bill transfers to DECD include preparing and submitting a separate tourism budget to OPM and the legislature.

The bill specifies that any orders or regulations under which CCCT exercises its powers and duties continue in force and effect until amended, repealed, or superseded. If these orders or regulations conflict with DECD's, the commissioner may implement policies and procedures consistent with statutes while in the process of adopting policies and procedures in regulation.

Committees

CCCT's executive director currently serves on several committees. The bill transfers this responsibility to the chairperson of the Culture and Tourism Advisory Committee, which the bill creates to replace the current commission. Under the bill, the chairperson or a committee member serves on the:

1. State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration,
2. Connecticut Capitol Center Commission,
3. Sports Advisory Board,
4. State Museum Advisory Committee,
5. Baldwin Museum Advisory Committee,
6. Advisory Panel on Accepting Art Work,
7. Face of Connecticut Steering Committee,
8. River Protection Advisory Committee,

9. Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Advisory Council, and
10. Committee for the Restoration of Historic Assets.

JOB TRAINING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The bill requires the DECD commissioner to establish job training programs addressing specified needs and specifies how she may administer them. She may administer the programs herself or retain a person, firm, corporation, or other entity to do so under a personal services agreement. In either case, she must specify how entities may apply for grants to provide the training. The process for providing the grants must include a request for proposals or a competitive award process.

BACKGROUND

CCCT's Composition

Table 1 shows CCCT's current composition, which becomes the composition of DECD's Culture and Tourism Advisory Committee.

Table 1: CCCT's Membership and Appointing Authorities

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Total Appointments</i>	<i>Appointment Requirements</i>
<i>Voting Members</i>		
Governor	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts representative • Tourism representative at large • History or humanities representatives (3) • At large (2)
House Speaker	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts representative • Tourism representative from the Western Tourism District • History or humanities representative
Senate Pres. Pro Tempore	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts representative • Tourism representative from the Central Tourism District • History or humanities representative
House Majority Leader	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts representative • Tourism representative from the Central Tourism District
Senate Majority Leader	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts representative • Tourism representative from the Eastern Tourism District
House Minority	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts representative

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Total Appointments</i>	<i>Appointment Requirements</i>
Leader		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism representative at large • History or humanities representative
Senate Minority Leader	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts representative • Tourism representative from the Western Tourism District • History or humanities representative
Non-Voting Members		
Statutory, ex officio	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Poet Laureate • State Archeologist • State Historian • CT Trust for Historic Preservation exec. director • CT Humanities Council exec. director

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/17/2011)