



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 600

February Session, 2012

Substitute Senate Bill No. 292

Senate, May 2, 2012

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ALIGNING CONNECTICUT'S INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2012*) (a) The Board of Regents for
2 Higher Education may develop an occupational training program at
3 the regional community-technical colleges to meet the employment
4 training needs of new and expanding industries as well as certain
5 existing industries identified by the Office of Workforce
6 Competitiveness, in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic
7 and Community Development, as industries with a high demand for
8 skilled workers.

9 (b) The occupational training program shall (1) concentrate on
10 training for skilled and semiskilled positions, including supervisory
11 personnel duties associated with such positions, (2) be in addition to
12 training programs currently offered by the regional community-
13 technical colleges, and (3) terminate when the new and expanding and
14 identified industry needs have been met.

15 (c) Basic academic education may be included as part of the
 16 occupational training program when such education is necessary to
 17 ensure the success of trainees in the program.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2012*) (a) The Board of Regents for
 19 Higher Education may develop an assessment system for measuring
 20 the skills of individual workers that employers believe are critical for
 21 job success, including, but not limited to, applied mathematics, reading
 22 for information and locating information. The board shall administer
 23 the assessment system at the regional community-technical colleges for
 24 employers that (1) are in new and expanding industries as well as
 25 certain existing industries identified by the Office of Workforce
 26 Competitiveness, in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic
 27 and Community Development, as industries with a high demand for
 28 skilled workers, and (2) meet minimum hiring criteria to be
 29 determined by the president of the Board of Regents for Higher
 30 Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and
 31 Community Development.

32 (b) A worker who undergoes an assessment provided pursuant to
 33 subsection (a) of this section shall receive a certificate indicating (1)
 34 such worker's skill and knowledge levels and overall work readiness
 35 for potential employers, and (2) the need for any additional
 36 educational or job training for such worker.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	New section

APP *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	FY 13 \$	FY 14 \$
Board of Regents for Higher Education	GF - Potential Cost	1,596,000	1,596,000
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits) ¹	GF - Potential Cost	126,230	126,230

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost to the state of approximately \$1,722,230. The costs, which are based upon similar existing programs, include staff (\$432,000), fringe benefits (\$126,230), credentials (\$108,000), scholarships (\$900,000) and other miscellaneous items (\$156,000). The costs assume serving a total of 200 students with 12 instructors in one new occupational training program. Additional programs would result in similar costs.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹ The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated non-pension fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 29.22% of payroll in FY 13 and FY 14.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 292*****AN ACT ALIGNING CONNECTICUT'S INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to develop an additional occupational training program at the Community-Technical Colleges (CTC). The program, if developed, must meet the training needs of new and expanding industries, as well as existing industries with high demand for skilled workers, as identified by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) in consultation with the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner. The program must concentrate on training for skilled and semi-skilled positions and terminate when industry needs have been met (presumably as determined by OWC in consultation with the DECD commissioner). Basic academic education may be included in the program when necessary.

The bill also allows the BOR to develop an assessment system administered at CTCs that measures individual workers' skills, including skills in applied mathematics, reading for information, locating information, and other skills that employers believe are critical for job success. If BOR develops the system, it must administer the system for employers that (1) are in new and expanding industries as well as existing industries with high demand for skilled workers, as identified by OWC in consultation with the DECD commissioner, and (2) meet minimum hiring criteria determined by the BOR president in consultation with the DECD commissioner. A worker who undergoes an assessment must receive a certificate indicating his or her (1) skill, knowledge levels, and overall work readiness and (2) need for any additional training.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The Senate referred the bill (File 332) to the Appropriations Committee, which favorably reported a substitute that allows, rather than requires, BOR to develop the occupational training program and assessment system.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/13/2012)

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/22/2012)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 52 Nay 0 (04/23/2012)