



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**Raised Bill No. 6563**

LCO No. 3735



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE  
COMPETITIVENESS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-124w of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) There shall be within the [Labor Department] Office of Policy  
4 and Management an Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

5 (b) The [Labor Commissioner shall, with the assistance of the] Office  
6 of Workforce Competitiveness shall:

7 (1) Be the Governor's principal workforce development policy  
8 advisor;

9 (2) Be the liaison between the Governor and any local, state or  
10 federal organizations and entities with respect to workforce  
11 development matters, including implementation of the Workforce  
12 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended;

13 (3) Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state  
14 agencies;

15 (4) Coordinate the state's implementation of the federal Workforce  
16 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended,  
17 and advise and assist the Governor with matters related to said act;

18 (5) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum  
19 involvement of members of the public, the legislature and local  
20 officials in workforce development matters, including implementation  
21 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to  
22 time amended;

23 (6) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with  
24 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the  
25 provisions of this section;

26 (7) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions of  
27 this section; and

28 (8) Not later than October 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, submit a  
29 report [, with the assistance of the Labor Department,] to the Governor  
30 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
31 cognizance of matters relating to education, economic development,  
32 labor and higher education and employment advancement specifying  
33 a forecasted assessment [by the Labor Department] of workforce  
34 shortages in occupations in this state for the succeeding two and five-  
35 year periods. The report shall also include recommendations  
36 concerning (A) methods to generate a sufficient number of workers to  
37 meet identified workforce needs, including, but not limited to,  
38 scholarship, school-to-career and internship programs, and (B)  
39 methods secondary and higher education and private industry can use  
40 to address identified workforce needs.

41 (c) The [Labor Department] Office of Workforce Competitiveness  
42 shall be the lead state agency for the development of employment and  
43 training strategies and initiatives required to support the state's

44 position in the knowledge economy. The [Labor Commissioner, with  
45 the assistance of the] Office of Workforce Competitiveness [,] may call  
46 upon any office, department, board, commission or [other] agency of  
47 the state to supply such reports, information and assistance as may be  
48 necessary or appropriate in order to carry out its duties and  
49 requirements. Each officer or employee of such office, department,  
50 board, commission or [other] agency of the state is authorized and  
51 directed to cooperate with the [Labor Commissioner] Office of  
52 Workforce Competitiveness and to furnish such reports, information  
53 and assistance.

54 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 4-124bb of the general statutes is  
55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
56 *October 1, 2013*):

57 (b) The Connecticut Career Ladder Advisory Committee shall be  
58 comprised of the following thirteen members: (1) The Commissioners  
59 of Education and Public Health and the president of the Board of  
60 Regents for Higher Education, or their designees; (2) the Labor  
61 Commissioner, or a designee; and (3) the following public members,  
62 all of whom shall be selected by [the Labor Commissioner, with  
63 recommendation of the staff of] the Office of Workforce  
64 Competitiveness, in conjunction with the Permanent Commission on  
65 the Status of Women, and all of whom shall be knowledgeable about  
66 issues relative to career ladder programs or projected workforce  
67 shortage areas: (A) One member with expertise in the development of  
68 the early childhood education workforce; (B) one member with  
69 expertise in job training for women; (C) one member with expertise in  
70 the development of the health care workforce; (D) one member with  
71 expertise in labor market analysis; (E) one member representing health  
72 care employers; (F) one member representing early childhood  
73 education employers; and (G) three members with expertise in  
74 workforce development programs.

75 Sec. 3. Section 4-124gg of the general statutes is repealed and the  
76 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

77 Not later than October 1, 2012, [the Labor Commissioner, with the  
78 assistance of] the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, [and] in  
79 consultation with the chairperson of the technical high school system  
80 board and the superintendent of the technical high school system, shall  
81 create an integrated system of state-wide industry advisory  
82 committees for each career cluster offered as part of the technical high  
83 school and regional community-technical college systems. Said  
84 committees shall include industry representatives of the specific career  
85 cluster. Each committee for a career cluster shall, with support from  
86 the [Labor Department] Office of Workforce Competitiveness,  
87 technical high school and regional community-technical college  
88 systems and the Department of Education, establish specific skills  
89 standards, corresponding curriculum and a career ladder for the  
90 cluster which shall be implemented as part of the schools' core  
91 curriculum.

92 Sec. 4. Section 4-124tt of the general statutes is repealed and the  
93 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

94 Within available appropriations, the Office of Workforce  
95 Competitiveness, within the [Labor Department] Office of Policy and  
96 Management, may establish a pilot program to provide any eligible  
97 individual with a minor dependent access to training in order to obtain  
98 skills and credentials necessary to obtain and maintain employment.  
99 Such skills and credentials may include, but need not be limited to (1)  
100 a high school diploma or its equivalent; (2) an alternative degree; (3)  
101 English as a second language training; and (4) vocational training. For  
102 purposes of this section, an eligible individual is an individual who  
103 would qualify for benefits under the temporary assistance for needy  
104 families program pursuant to Title IV-A of the Social Security Act.

105 Sec. 5. Section 4-124uu of the general statutes is repealed and the  
106 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

107 (a) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness, [in conjunction with  
108 the Labor Commissioner and] in consultation with the Commissioners

109 of Education and Economic and Community Development and the  
110 Labor Commissioner, shall establish a program that is designed to  
111 develop a trained workforce for the film industry in the state. Such  
112 program shall have three components: (1) An unpaid intern training  
113 program for high school and college students; (2) a production  
114 assistant training program open to any state resident; and (3) a  
115 workforce training program that would include classroom training,  
116 on-set training and a mentor program.

117 (b) Not later than ninety days after July 1, 2012, the Office of  
118 Workforce Competitiveness [, with the approval of the Labor  
119 Commissioner,] shall establish written participation guidelines for the  
120 program authorized under this section.

121 (c) Not later than January 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, the Office  
122 of Workforce Competitiveness shall submit a status report, in  
123 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the establishment  
124 and operation of the program authorized under this section to [the  
125 Labor Commissioner,] the Connecticut Employment and Training  
126 Commission and the joint standing committees of the General  
127 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce and  
128 higher education and employment advancement.

129 Sec. 6. Section 4-124vv of the general statutes is repealed and the  
130 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

131 The [Labor Department, working with its] Office of Workforce  
132 Competitiveness [,] shall, within available appropriations, fund  
133 Connecticut Career Choices.

134 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10-21c of the general statutes is  
135 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
136 *October 1, 2013*):

137 (a) Any local or regional board of education that has a demonstrated  
138 shortage of certified teachers in those fields designated by the State  
139 Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of section 10a-163 or

140 that elects to expand the academic offerings to students in the areas  
141 identified by [the Labor Commissioner and] the Office of Workforce  
142 Competitiveness pursuant to the provisions of section 4-124w, as  
143 amended by this act, may solicit and accept qualified private sector  
144 specialists, not necessarily certified to teach, whose services to teach in  
145 shortage areas have been donated by business firms, as defined in  
146 section 12-631. Private sector specialists who donate their services may  
147 be permitted to offer instruction in existing or specially designed  
148 curricula, provided no private sector specialist shall be permitted to  
149 work more than one-half of the maximum classroom hours of a full-  
150 time certified teacher, and provided further no private sector specialist  
151 teaching in an area identified by [the Labor Commissioner and] the  
152 Office of Workforce Competitiveness pursuant to section 4-124w, as  
153 amended by this act, shall have sole responsibility for a classroom. No  
154 certified teacher may be terminated, transferred or reassigned due to  
155 the utilization of any private sector specialist. Local or regional boards  
156 of education shall annually review the need for private sector  
157 specialists and shall not renew or place a private sector specialist if  
158 certified teachers are available.

159 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 10a-19d of the general statutes is  
160 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
161 *October 1, 2013*):

162 (b) The president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, in  
163 consultation with the [Labor Department's] Office of Workforce  
164 Competitiveness, the Department of Education, the Department of  
165 Social Services, Charter Oak State College, early childhood education  
166 faculty at two and four-year public and independent institutions of  
167 higher education, early childhood education professional associations,  
168 early childhood education advocates and practitioners, and persons  
169 knowledgeable in the area of career development and programs in  
170 early childhood care and education, shall define the preservice and  
171 minimum training requirements and competencies for persons  
172 involved in early childhood education, from birth to five years of age,

173 including requirements for individual levels of early childhood  
174 credentialing and licensing.

175 Sec. 9. Section 31-2d of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
176 *October 1, 2013*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	4-124w
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	4-124bb(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	4-124gg
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	4-124tt
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	4-124uu
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	4-124vv
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	10-21c(a)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	10a-19d(b)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	Repealer section

**HED**      *Joint Favorable*