



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5377

LCO No. 1636



Referred to Committee on PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS

Introduced by:
(PRI)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS AS THEY RELATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 31-3h of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2014*):

4 (b) The duties and responsibilities of the commission shall include:

5 (1) Carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a state job training
6 coordinating council pursuant to the federal Job Training Partnership
7 Act, 29 USC 1532, as amended from time to time, a state human
8 resource investment council pursuant to 29 USC 1501 et seq., as
9 amended from time to time, and such other related entities as the
10 Governor may direct;

11 (2) Reviewing all employment and training programs in the state to

12 determine their success in leading to and obtaining the goal of
13 economic self-sufficiency and to determine if such programs are
14 serving the needs of Connecticut's workers, employers and economy;

15 (3) Developing a plan for the coordination of all employment and
16 training programs in the state to avoid duplication and to promote the
17 delivery of comprehensive, individualized employment and training
18 services and the reemployment of older workers. The plan shall
19 contain the commission's recommendations for policies and
20 procedures to enhance the coordination and collaboration of all such
21 programs and shall be submitted on June 1, 2000, and annually
22 thereafter, to the Governor for the Governor's approval;

23 (4) Reviewing and commenting on all employment and training
24 programs enacted by the General Assembly;

25 (5) Implementing the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L.
26 105-220, as [from time to time amended] amended from time to time.
27 Such implementation shall include (A) developing, in consultation
28 with the regional workforce development boards, a single Connecticut
29 workforce development plan that (i) complies with the provisions of
30 said act and section 31-11p, and (ii) includes comprehensive state
31 performance measures for workforce development activities specified
32 in Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220,
33 as [from time to time amended] amended from time to time, which
34 performance measures comply with the requirements of 20 CFR Part
35 666.100, (B) preparing and submitting a report on the state's progress
36 in achieving such performance measures to the Governor and the
37 General Assembly annually on January thirty-first, (C) making
38 recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the allocation
39 of funds received by the state under said act and making
40 recommendations to the regional workforce development boards
41 concerning the use of formulas in allocating such funds to adult
42 employment and job training activities and youth activities, as
43 specified in said act, (D) providing oversight and coordination of the

44 state-wide employment statistics system required by said act, (E) as
45 appropriate, recommending to the Governor that the Governor apply
46 for workforce flexibility plans and waiver authority under said act,
47 after consultation with the regional workforce development boards, (F)
48 developing performance criteria for regional workforce development
49 boards to utilize in creating a list of eligible providers, and (G) on or
50 before December 31, 1999, developing a uniform individual training
51 accounts voucher system that shall be used by the regional workforce
52 development boards to pay for training of eligible workers by eligible
53 providers, as required under said act;

54 (6) Developing and overseeing a plan for the continuous
55 improvement of the regional workforce development boards
56 established pursuant to section 31-3k;

57 (7) Developing incumbent worker, and vocational and manpower
58 training programs, including customized job training programs to
59 enhance the productivity of Connecticut businesses and to increase the
60 skills and earnings of underemployed and at-risk workers, and other
61 programs administered by the regional workforce development
62 boards. The Labor Department, in collaboration with the regional
63 workforce development boards, shall implement any incumbent
64 worker and customized job training programs developed by the
65 commission pursuant to this subdivision; [and]

66 (8) Developing a strategy for providing comprehensive services to
67 eligible youths, which strategy shall include developing youth
68 preapprentice and apprentice programs through, but not limited to,
69 technical high schools, and improving linkages between academic and
70 occupational learning and other youth development activities; [.]

71 (9) Coordinating an electronic state hiring campaign to encourage
72 the reemployment of older workers to be administered through the
73 Labor Department's Internet web site, which shall include testimony
74 from various employers within and without the state that

75 demonstrates the value of hiring and retaining older workers. Not later
76 than January 1, 2015, the commission shall submit a report, in
77 accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
78 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor on
79 the status of such campaign.

80 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than January 1,
81 2015, the Labor Department shall develop or approve a one page
82 quick-reference guide summarizing (1) the public and private
83 resources available for older unemployed workers within the state,
84 and (2) the steps by which older unemployed workers may access such
85 resources.

86 (b) The Labor Department shall, within available appropriations,
87 ensure that the resources summarized pursuant to subsection (a) of
88 this section are accessible through the 2-1-1 Infoline program.

89 Sec. 3. Section 31-22q of the general statutes is repealed and the
90 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

91 (a) To assist in the administration of sections 31-22m to 31-22q,
92 inclusive, as amended by this act, there shall continue to be maintained
93 in the Labor Department a program of apprentice training. The Labor
94 Commissioner is authorized to appoint, in accordance with the
95 provisions of chapter 67, such personnel as may be necessary for
96 effective administration of said sections.

97 (b) Not later than January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the Labor
98 Department shall develop or approve an informational campaign to
99 distribute to Workforce Investment Boards, CTWorks One Stop Career
100 Centers and similar job centers within the state. The informational
101 campaign shall include a description of the program of apprentice
102 training maintained in the department and shall address common
103 misperceptions regarding such program and the various opportunities
104 and benefits that apprenticeship training may provide for unemployed
105 individuals within the state.

106 Sec. 4. (*Effective October 1, 2014*) Not later than January 1, 2015, the
107 Labor Commissioner shall convene a working group that shall include,
108 but not be limited to, representatives of Workforce Investment Boards,
109 CTWorks One Career Centers and similar job centers in the state to
110 determine whether individuals providing resume writing assistance at
111 CTWorks One Stop Career Centers should be required to attain a
112 certified professional resume writer credential prior to providing such
113 resume writing assistance. The working group shall make such
114 determination not later than July 1, 2015.

115 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 31-3w of the general statutes is
116 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
117 *October 1, 2014*):

118 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Labor
119 Commissioner, in exercise of any duties including any duties as
120 administrator under chapter 567, shall, within available resources,
121 maintain a state-wide network of job centers which provide to
122 workers, students and employers comprehensive workforce
123 development assistance, including, but not limited to, the following:

124 (1) Unemployment compensation, retraining allowances and other
125 forms of federal and state income support;

126 (2) Career, labor market, educational and job training information,
127 and consumer reports on local training providers;

128 (3) Career planning and job search assistance;

129 (4) Applicant recruitment and screening, assessment of training
130 needs, customized job training pursuant to this chapter, apprenticeship
131 programs pursuant to chapter 557 and related consultative services to
132 employers based on their employment needs;

133 (5) Eligibility determinations and referrals to providers of
134 employment and training services; [and]

135 (6) Access to information regarding job openings and, where
136 appropriate, referral to such openings; and

137 (7) Access to on-line learning courses as available for unemployed
138 individuals within the state.

139 Sec. 6. Section 5 of public act 11-1 of the October special session is
140 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
141 *1, 2014*):

142 (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the
143 State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time, to
144 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and
145 in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [twenty million]
146 forty million dollars, provided ten million dollars of said authorization
147 shall be effective July 1, [2012] 2015.

148 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
149 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
150 Labor Department for the purpose of the Subsidized Training and
151 Employment program established pursuant to section [4 of this act] 31-
152 3pp of the general statutes, as amended by this act, provided (1) five
153 million dollars of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section
154 shall be used in each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for the small
155 business program established pursuant to subsection (c) of section 4 of
156 this act, and (2) five million dollars of the amount stated in subsection
157 (a) of this section shall be used in each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for
158 the small manufacturer program established pursuant to subsection
159 (d) of [section 4 of this act] 31-3pp of the general statutes.

160 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
161 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
162 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
163 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
164 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
165 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized

166 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
167 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
168 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
169 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
170 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
171 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
172 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
173 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
174 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
175 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
176 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
177 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
178 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
179 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
180 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
181 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
182 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
183 due.

184 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 31-3pp of the general statutes is
185 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
186 *October 1, 2014*):

187 (c) (1) An eligible small business may apply to the department for a
188 grant to subsidize on-the-job training and compensation for a new
189 employee, where "new employee" means a person who (A) was
190 unemployed immediately prior to employment, regardless of whether
191 such person collected unemployment compensation benefits as a result
192 of such unemployment, [(B) is a resident of a municipality that has (i)
193 an unemployment rate that is equal to or higher than the state
194 unemployment rate as of September 1, 2011, or (ii) a population of
195 eighty thousand or more, and (C)] and (B) has a family income equal to
196 or less than two hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level,
197 adjusted for family size. "New employee" does not include a person
198 who was employed in this state by a related person with respect to the

199 eligible small business during the prior twelve months or a person
 200 employed on a temporary or seasonal basis by a retailer, as defined in
 201 section 42-371.

202 (2) Grants to eligible small businesses under the Subsidized
 203 Training and Employment program shall be in the following amounts:
 204 (A) For the first thirty calendar days a new employee is employed, one
 205 hundred per cent of an amount representing the hourly wage of such
 206 new employee, exclusive of any benefits, but in no event shall such
 207 amount exceed twenty dollars per hour; (B) for the thirty-first to
 208 ninetieth, inclusive, calendar days, seventy-five per cent of such
 209 amount; (C) for the ninety-first to one hundred fiftieth, inclusive,
 210 calendar days, fifty per cent of such amount; and (D) for the one
 211 hundred fifty-first to one hundred eightieth, inclusive, calendar days,
 212 twenty-five per cent of such amount. Grants shall be cancelled as of the
 213 date the new employee leaves employment with the eligible small
 214 business.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	31-3h(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	31-22q
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	31-3w(a)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	PA 11-1 of the October Sp. Sess., Sec. 5
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	31-3pp(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the program review and investigations committee on the reemployment of older workers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]