



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5377

February Session, 2014



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

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*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 workers fifty years of age or older.
19 The plan shall contain the commission's recommendations for policies
20 and procedures to enhance the coordination and collaboration of all
21 such 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; [.] and

71 (9) Coordinating an electronic state hiring campaign to encourage
72 the reemployment of workers fifty years of age or older to be
73 administered through the Labor Department's Internet web site, which
74 shall include testimony from various employers within and without
75 the state that demonstrates the value of hiring and retaining workers
76 fifty years of age or older. Not later than January 1, 2015, the
77 commission shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to
78 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
79 cognizance of matters relating to labor on 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 unemployed workers fifty years of age or older
84 within the state, and (2) the steps by which such workers may access
85 such 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 Stop Career Centers and similar job centers in the state
110 to determine whether individuals providing resume writing assistance

111 at 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 (c) of section 31-3pp of the general statutes is
116 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
117 *October 1, 2014*):

118 (c) (1) An eligible small business may apply to the department for a
119 grant to subsidize on-the-job training and compensation for a new
120 employee, where "new employee" means a person who (A) was
121 unemployed immediately prior to employment, regardless of whether
122 such person collected unemployment compensation benefits as a result
123 of such unemployment, [(B) is a resident of a municipality that has (i)
124 an unemployment rate that is equal to or higher than the state
125 unemployment rate as of September 1, 2011, or (ii) a population of
126 eighty thousand or more, and (C)] and (B) has a family income equal to
127 or less than two hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level,
128 adjusted for family size. "New employee" does not include a person
129 who was employed in this state by a related person with respect to the
130 eligible small business during the prior twelve months or a person
131 employed on a temporary or seasonal basis by a retailer, as defined in
132 section 42-371.

133 (2) Grants to eligible small businesses under the Subsidized
134 Training and Employment program shall be in the following amounts:
135 (A) For the first thirty calendar days a new employee is employed, one
136 hundred per cent of an amount representing the hourly wage of such
137 new employee, exclusive of any benefits, but in no event shall such
138 amount exceed twenty dollars per hour; (B) for the thirty-first to
139 ninetieth, inclusive, calendar days, seventy-five per cent of such
140 amount; (C) for the ninety-first to one hundred fiftieth, inclusive,
141 calendar days, fifty per cent of such amount; and (D) for the one
142 hundred fifty-first to one hundred eightieth, inclusive, calendar days,
143 twenty-five per cent of such amount. Grants shall be cancelled as of the

144 date the new employee leaves employment with the eligible small
145 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>	31-3pp(c)

FIN *Joint Favorable Subst.*

LAB *Joint Favorable*