



# House of Representatives

**File No. 756**

General Assembly

February Session, 2014

**(Reprint of File No. 311)**

House Bill No. 5559  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 3, 2014

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
UNIFORM REGIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR TASK FORCE,  
LICENSURE EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN AFTER SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS AND EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE  
SUBSIDIZED TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-66q of the 2014  
2 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) For the school [year] years commencing July 1, 2014, and July 1,  
5 2015, a local or regional board of education may adopt the uniform  
6 regional school calendar developed and approved pursuant to  
7 subsection (a) of this section.

8 (c) [For] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
9 for the school year commencing July 1, [2015] 2016, and each school  
10 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall use the  
11 uniform regional school calendar developed and approved pursuant to

12 subsection (a) of this section.

13 (2) A local or regional board of education may delay  
14 implementation of the uniform regional school calendar until the  
15 school year commencing July 1, 2017, if such board of education has an  
16 existing employee contract that makes implementation of the uniform  
17 regional school calendar impossible.

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 19a-77 of the general statutes is  
19 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
20 *1, 2014*):

21 (b) For licensing requirement purposes, child day care services shall  
22 not include such services which are:

23 (1) (A) Administered by a public school system, or (B) administered  
24 by a municipal agency or department; [and located in a public school  
25 building;]

26 (2) Administered by a private school which is in compliance with  
27 section 10-188 and is approved by the State Board of Education or is  
28 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of  
29 Education;

30 (3) Classes in music, dance, drama and art that are no longer than  
31 two hours in length; classes that teach a single skill that are no longer  
32 than two hours in length; library programs that are no longer than two  
33 hours in length; scouting; programs that offer exclusively sports  
34 activities; rehearsals; academic tutoring programs; or programs  
35 exclusively for children thirteen years of age or older;

36 (4) Informal arrangements among neighbors and formal or informal  
37 arrangements among relatives in their own homes, provided the  
38 relative is limited to any of the following degrees of kinship by blood  
39 or marriage to the child being cared for or to the child's parent: Child,  
40 grandchild, sibling, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle or child of one's aunt or  
41 uncle;

42 (5) Drop-in supplementary child care operations for educational or  
43 recreational purposes and the child receives such care infrequently  
44 where the parents are on the premises;

45 (6) Drop-in supplementary child care operations in retail  
46 establishments where the parents remain in the same store as the child  
47 for retail shopping, provided the drop-in supplementary child-care  
48 operation does not charge a fee and does not refer to itself as a child  
49 day care center;

50 (7) Drop-in programs administered by a nationally chartered boys'  
51 and girls' club;

52 (8) Religious educational activities administered by a religious  
53 institution exclusively for children whose parents or legal guardians  
54 are members of such religious institution;

55 (9) Administered by Solar Youth, Inc., a New Haven-based  
56 nonprofit youth development and environmental education  
57 organization, provided Solar Youth, Inc. informs the parents and legal  
58 guardians of any children enrolled in its programs that such programs  
59 are not licensed by the Department of Public Health to provide child  
60 day care services;

61 (10) Programs administered by organizations under contract with  
62 the Department of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-851a that  
63 promote the reduction of teenage pregnancy through the provision of  
64 services to persons who are ten to nineteen years of age, inclusive; or

65 (11) Administered by the Cardinal Shehan Center, a Bridgeport-  
66 based nonprofit organization that is exclusively for school age  
67 children, provided the Cardinal Shehan Center informs the parents  
68 and legal guardians of any children enrolled in its programs that such  
69 programs are not licensed by the Department of Public Health to  
70 provide child day care services.

71 Sec. 3. Section 31-3pp of the general statutes is repealed and the

72 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

73 (a) For purposes of this section:

74 (1) "Department" means the Labor Department;

75 (2) "Eligible small business" means a business that (A) employed not  
76 more than one hundred full-time employees on at least fifty per cent of  
77 its working days during the preceding twelve months, (B) has  
78 operations in Connecticut, (C) has been registered to conduct business  
79 for not less than twelve months, and (D) is in good standing with the  
80 payment of all state and local taxes;

81 (3) "Control", with respect to a corporation, means ownership,  
82 directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty per cent or more of the  
83 total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of such  
84 corporation entitled to vote. "Control", with respect to a trust, means  
85 ownership, directly or indirectly, of fifty per cent or more of the  
86 beneficial interest in the principal or income of such trust. The  
87 ownership of stock in a corporation, of a capital or profits interest in a  
88 partnership, limited liability company or association or of a beneficial  
89 interest in a trust shall be determined in accordance with the rules for  
90 constructive ownership of stock provided in Section 267(c) of the  
91 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding  
92 internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time  
93 amended, other than paragraph (3) of said Section 267(c);

94 (4) "Related person" means (A) a corporation, limited liability  
95 company, partnership, association or trust controlled by the eligible  
96 small business, (B) an individual, corporation, limited liability  
97 company, partnership, association or trust that is in control of the  
98 eligible small business, (C) a corporation, limited liability company,  
99 partnership, association or trust controlled by an individual,  
100 corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust  
101 that is in control of the eligible small business, or (D) a member of the  
102 same controlled group as the eligible small business;

103 (5) "Eligible small manufacturer" means an eligible small business  
104 described in sectors 31 to 33, inclusive, of the North American Industry  
105 Classification System, that employed not more than one hundred  
106 employees on at least fifty per cent of its working days during the  
107 preceding twelve months.

108 (b) (1) There is established within the Labor Department a  
109 Subsidized Training and Employment program for eligible small  
110 businesses and eligible small manufacturers. Said program shall  
111 provide grants to such businesses and manufacturers to subsidize, for  
112 the first one hundred eighty calendar days after a person is hired, a  
113 part of the cost of employment, including any costs related to training.  
114 No such business or manufacturer receiving a grant under this section  
115 with respect to a new employee or newly hired person may receive a  
116 second grant under this section with respect to the same new  
117 employee or newly hired person.

118 (2) At the discretion of the Labor Commissioner, the department  
119 may use up to four per cent of any funds allocated pursuant to section  
120 5 of public act 11-1 of the October special session for the purpose of  
121 retaining outside consultants or the Workforce Investment Boards to  
122 operate the Subsidized Training and Employment program.

123 (3) In fiscal year 2013, the department may use up to four per cent of  
124 any funds allocated pursuant to section 5 of public act 11-1 of the  
125 October special session in said fiscal year for the purpose of the  
126 marketing and operation of the Subsidized Training and Employment  
127 program.

128 (c) (1) An eligible small business may apply to the department for a  
129 grant to subsidize on-the-job training and compensation for a new  
130 employee, where "new employee" means a person who (A) was  
131 unemployed immediately prior to employment, regardless of whether  
132 such person collected unemployment compensation benefits as a result  
133 of such unemployment, (B) is a resident of a municipality that has (i)  
134 an unemployment rate that is equal to or higher than the state

135 unemployment rate as of September 1, 2011, or (ii) a population of  
136 eighty thousand or more, and (C) has a family income equal to or less  
137 than two hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level, adjusted  
138 for family size. "New employee" does not include a person who was  
139 employed in this state by a related person with respect to the eligible  
140 small business during the prior twelve months or a person employed  
141 on a temporary or seasonal basis by a retailer, as defined in section 42-  
142 371.

143 (2) Grants to eligible small businesses under the Subsidized  
144 Training and Employment program shall be in the following amounts:  
145 (A) For the first thirty calendar days a new employee is employed, one  
146 hundred per cent of an amount representing the hourly wage of such  
147 new employee, exclusive of any benefits, but in no event shall such  
148 amount exceed twenty dollars per hour; (B) for the thirty-first to  
149 ninetieth, inclusive, calendar days, seventy-five per cent of such  
150 amount; (C) for the ninety-first to one hundred fiftieth, inclusive,  
151 calendar days, fifty per cent of such amount; and (D) for the one  
152 hundred fifty-first to one hundred eightieth, inclusive, calendar days,  
153 twenty-five per cent of such amount. Grants shall be cancelled as of the  
154 date the new employee leaves employment with the eligible small  
155 business.

156 (d) (1) An eligible small manufacturer may apply to the department  
157 for a grant to be used to train and compensate persons newly hired by  
158 such manufacturer. Any training shall be provided by such  
159 manufacturer, and take place on such manufacturer's premises, but no  
160 existing formal training program shall be required. The Labor  
161 Commissioner, or said commissioner's designee, shall review and  
162 approve such manufacturer's description of the proposed training as  
163 part of the application.

164 (2) Grants awarded to an eligible small manufacturer pursuant to  
165 this subsection shall subsidize the costs of training and compensating  
166 each person newly hired by such manufacturer. In no event shall a  
167 grant exceed the salary of the newly hired person. Maximum amounts

168 of each grant are: For the first full calendar month a newly hired  
169 person is employed, up to two thousand five hundred dollars; for the  
170 second month, up to two thousand four hundred dollars; for the third  
171 month, up to two thousand two hundred dollars; for the fourth month,  
172 up to two thousand dollars; for the fifth month, up to one thousand  
173 eight hundred dollars; and for the sixth month, up to one thousand six  
174 hundred dollars. No grant shall exceed a total amount of twelve  
175 thousand five hundred dollars per newly hired person. A grant may be  
176 cancelled as of the date such person leaves employment with the  
177 eligible small manufacturer.

178 (e) (1) An eligible small business or eligible small manufacturer may  
179 apply to the department for a grant to subsidize on-the-job training for  
180 a new apprentice, where "new apprentice" means a person who is a  
181 current student at a public or private high school, preparatory school  
182 or institution of higher education. "New apprentice" does not include a  
183 person who was employed in this state by a related person with  
184 respect to the eligible small business during the prior twelve months or  
185 a person employed on a temporary or seasonal basis by a retailer, as  
186 defined in section 42-371.

187 (2) Grants to eligible small businesses or eligible small  
188 manufacturers under the Subsidized Training and Employment  
189 program shall be in the following amounts: (A) For the first thirty  
190 calendar days a new apprentice is employed, one hundred per cent of  
191 an amount representing the cost of on-the-job training for a new  
192 apprentice, but in no event shall such amount exceed ten dollars per  
193 hour; (B) for the thirty-first to ninetieth, inclusive, calendar days,  
194 seventy-five per cent of such amount; (C) for the ninety-first to one  
195 hundred fiftieth, inclusive, calendar days, fifty per cent of such  
196 amount; and (D) for the one hundred fifty-first to one hundred  
197 eightieth, inclusive, calendar days, twenty-five per cent of such  
198 amount. Grants shall be cancelled as of the date the new apprentice  
199 leaves his or her apprenticeship with the eligible small business or  
200 eligible small manufacturer.

201        [(e)] (f) Not later than July 15, 2012, and annually thereafter, and  
 202        January 15, 2013, and annually thereafter, the Labor Commissioner  
 203        shall provide a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
 204        4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
 205        cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding,  
 206        appropriations, commerce and labor. Said report shall include  
 207        available data, for the six-month period ending on the last day of the  
 208        calendar month preceding such report, on (1) the number of small  
 209        businesses that participated in the Subsidized Training and  
 210        Employment program established pursuant to [subsection (c)]  
 211        subsections (c) and (e) of this section, and the general categories of  
 212        such businesses, (2) the number of small manufacturers that  
 213        participated in the Subsidized Training and Employment program  
 214        established pursuant to [subsection (d)] subsections (d) and (e) of this  
 215        section, and the general categories of such manufacturers, (3) the  
 216        number of individuals that received employment, and (4) the most  
 217        recent estimate of the number of jobs created or maintained.

218        [(f)] (g) The Labor Commissioner may adopt regulations in  
 219        accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the  
 220        provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-66q(b) and (c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-77(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	31-3pp

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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 15 \$</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>
Early Childhood, Off.	GF - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
Early Childhood, Off.	GF - Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 15 \$</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	Savings	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill delays implementation of the uniform regional school calendar by a year, and permits a school district to delay implementation for an extra year if an existing employee contract makes such implementation impossible. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as it allows districts to maintain the status quo.

Additionally, the bill could result in savings to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to the extent that fewer entities are subject to child day care licensing requirements. The bill expands the definition of child day care services that are not considered as such for the purposes of licensing by removing the specification that the administering agency or department be located in a public school building.

The bill also results in a revenue loss associated with fewer entities subject to licensing fees. The child day care center fee is \$500, while the group day care home fee is \$250. Both fees support a four-year license. The municipal agencies or departments affected by the bill would

experience a corresponding savings.

Lastly, the bill expands the Subsidized Training and Employment Program within the Department of Labor, which is funded through bond funds. As the bill does not provide additional bond funds for the expansion, this does not result in any fiscal impact.

House "A" added the provisions regarding licensing requirements and the Subsidized Training and Employment Program. The fiscal impact is described above.

### ***The Out Years***

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

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5559 (as amended by House "A")\*****AN ACT CONCERNING A UNIFORM REGIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR.****SUMMARY:**

This bill delays for one year, from the school year starting July 1, 2015 to the year starting July 1, 2016, the requirement that each local or regional board of education adopt a uniform regional school calendar that the regional education service center (RESC) for that board developed and approved. By law, each RESC must develop a uniform school calendar by April 1, 2014 to be used by each local and regional board of education in the RESC's service region, and the calendar must be consistent with the guidelines developed under PA 13-247 (see BACKGROUND).

Furthermore, the bill gives a school board an additional year, until the school year starting July 1, 2017, to implement the uniform calendar if it has an existing employee contract that makes implementation of the uniform regional school calendar impossible. (Some contracts include specific vacation periods or professional development dates.) The bill does not indicate how it is determined that contracts make the regional calendar impossible.

The bill creates a new apprenticeship grant program under the Subsidized Training and Employment Program (STEP) to provide grants for small businesses and manufacturers to hire high school and college students.

The bill expands an existing child day care service licensing exemption to apply to any day care service that a municipal agency or department administers rather than only those located in a public

school building.

It also makes conforming changes.

\*House Amendment "A" adds the provisions regarding (1) the STEP new apprentice program and (2) the licensing exemption for municipally administered child day care services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the uniform calendar portion and July 1, 2014 for the new apprentice program and the licensing exemption.

### **STEP NEW APPRENTICE PROGRAM**

The bill creates a "new apprentice" grant program under the STEP to provide grants for small businesses and manufacturers to hire high school and college students. Under the STEP program, the Department of Labor (DOL) provides grants to small businesses to help offset the cost of hiring people who were previously unemployed.

Under the bill a "new apprentice" is a student at a public or private high school, preparatory school, or institution of higher education. It does not include a person employed (1) in Connecticut by a relative at an eligible small business during the previous 12 months or (2) on a temporary or seasonal basis by a retailer that sells goods primarily used for personal, family, or household purposes.

An eligible small business or manufacturer may apply to DOL for a grant to subsidize on-the-job training for a new apprentice. An eligible small business must (1) employ 100 or fewer full-time employees on at least 50% of its working days in the previous 12 months, (2) have operations and be registered in the state, and (3) be in good standing regarding all state and local taxes. An eligible small manufacturer means a business classified as a manufacturer under the North American Industry Classification System that employs 100 or fewer workers on at least 50% of its working days during the preceding 12 months.

**Grant Schedule**

The bill creates a grant schedule, with a maximum of \$10 per hour for any apprentice, for eligible small businesses or manufacturers as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: New Apprentice Subsidy Schedule**

<b>Calendar Days Employed</b>	<b>Grant Amount as Percent of Employee's Training and Compensation</b>
First 30 days	100%*
31 to 90, inclusive	75%
91 to 150, inclusive	50%
151 to 180, inclusive	25%
*Up to a maximum of \$10 per hour.	

Grants are cancelled when the new apprentice leaves his or her apprenticeship with the eligible small business or manufacturer.

**BACKGROUND**

***Uniform Regional School Calendar Task Force and Guidelines***

A 2013 law established a task force to develop regional uniform school calendar guidelines that had to meet the following requirements:

1. at least 180 days of sessions in a school year (as required by existing law);
2. a uniform start date;
3. uniform days for statutorily required professional development and in-service training for certified employees; and
4. up to three uniform school vacation periods during each school year, of which up to two must be one-week vacations and one must be during the summer (PA 13-247, §321).

The task force completed its report and guidelines in January 2014. The guidelines include:

1. a common start date for students of the last Wednesday in August, with a three-day flexible window before or after that Wednesday;
2. Election Day in November to be a professional development day when no students attend school; and
3. five flexible days for individual district needs.

**RESCs**

Each of the six RESCs in the state serves a different geographical region. The RESCs provide various services to local and regional boards of education.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26    Nay 7    (03/19/2014)