



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 3431

HB0549703431HDO

Offered by:

REP. WILLIS, 64th Dist.

SEN. CASSANO, 4th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5497

File No. 263

Cal. No. 170

**"AN ACT IMPLEMENTING AN I-BEST PROGRAM THROUGHOUT
THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this
4 section:

5 (1) "Integrated basic education and skills training programming"
6 means a contextualized learning program based on the Integrated
7 Basic Education and Skills Training Program, I-BEST, that (A) fosters
8 students' literacy and work skills by pairing two instructors in the
9 classroom, one to teach professional and technical content and the
10 other to teach basic skills in reading, mathematics, writing or English
11 language, to enable students to move through school and into living
12 wage jobs faster by learning basic skills in real-world scenarios offered
13 by the job-training portion of the curriculum and earning the necessary
14 credentials for such jobs, and (B) has been implemented on a pilot

15 basis pursuant to section 17b-112k of the general statutes; and

16 (2) "Contextualized learning" means learning that focuses on the
17 multiple facets of any learning environment and encourages educators
18 to choose or design learning environments that incorporate a variety of
19 experiences for purposes of enabling students to discover the
20 relationship between abstract ideas and practical application by
21 discovering, relating to and reinforcing such ideas in a real-world
22 context.

23 (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, the Labor Department and the
24 regional workforce development boards established pursuant to
25 section 31-3k of the general statutes, in consultation with the Board of
26 Regents for Higher Education, the state Department of Education, and
27 the Department of Social Services, shall implement integrated basic
28 education and skills training programming for unemployed and
29 underemployed persons in this state. The regional workforce
30 development boards shall leverage any available funding from state,
31 federal and private sources for purposes of implementing such
32 programming and providing training to educators utilizing such
33 programming.

34 (c) The regional workforce development boards shall (1) establish
35 eligibility requirements for students of the integrated basic education
36 and skills training programming implemented pursuant to subsection
37 (b) of this section, including, but not limited to, a high school diploma
38 or its equivalent, as determined by the state Department of Education,
39 and (2) ensure that all educators utilizing such programming have the
40 necessary professional certification or comparable teaching experience,
41 as determined by said department. The Labor Department and the
42 regional workforce development boards may provide financial
43 assistance to students who enroll in such programming, including, but
44 not limited to, tuition assistance and reimbursement for the cost of any
45 transportation or childcare required for a student to participate in such
46 programming. The total amount of reimbursements for such costs shall
47 not exceed fifteen per cent of the total appropriation for

48 implementation of such programming.

49 (d) A student who successfully completes integrated basic education
50 and skills training programming implemented pursuant to subsection
51 (b) of this section shall earn a certificate in an emerging industry in the
52 local labor market, as determined by the Labor Department, credit
53 toward an associate degree at a public institution of higher education
54 in this state, where applicable and as determined by the Board of
55 Regents for Higher Education, and occupational training in such
56 emerging industry.

57 (e) Not later than January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the Labor
58 Commissioner shall report to the joint standing committees of the
59 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
60 education and employment advancement and labor, in accordance
61 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding
62 the following, which shall contain no personally identifiable
63 information:

64 (1) Number of students enrolled in the integrated basic education
65 and skills training programming implemented pursuant to subsection
66 (b) of this section, categorized by certificate type;

67 (2) Number of students who successfully completed such
68 programming in the preceding academic year and the type of
69 certificates or degrees earned by such students upon completion;

70 (3) Number of students employed not later than three months after
71 completing such programming and such students' median hours, wage
72 and annual gross earnings;

73 (4) Number of students employed not later than nine months after
74 completing such programming and such students' median hours, wage
75 and annual gross earnings;

76 (5) Number of students enrolled in such programming in the
77 preceding academic year who earned at least forty-five credits and a

78 certificate or degree;

79 (6) The amount of Jobs First program funds spent on such
80 programming;

81 (7) Recommendations for improving the rates of retention and
82 completion of students enrolled in such programming; and

83 (8) Any other potential legislative improvements for such
84 programming."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section