

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 14-42—sSB 64

*Labor and Public Employees Committee
Human Services Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes in the labor statutes. It:

1. changes and expands certain Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) job placement program reporting requirements,
2. repeals the requirement that the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) update a self-sufficiency measurement every three years,
3. changes how employment information is exchanged between the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Social Services (DSS),
4. requires DOL to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange (HIX) for employment information,
5. eliminates the film industry workforce training program, and
6. makes conforming and technical changes (§§ 3, 5, and 6).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 1 & 4 — REPORT CARD ON EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAMS

The act requires CETC to submit a new report to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the legislature every year and changes the due date for an existing CETC annual report.

New Report

The act requires CETC to annually submit a report card for each employment placement program in CETC's annual employment and training program inventory, which the labor commissioner maintains. The report card must identify, for each program, the:

1. cost,
2. number of program participants,
3. number of participants completing the program, and
4. employment placement rates at 13- and 26-week intervals for those completing the program or a statement saying why such measure is not relevant.

CETC must submit the report to OPM and the Education, Higher Education and Workforce Advancement, and Labor committees by October 1, 2014, and every year thereafter.

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Existing Report

The act changes, from June 1 to January 31, the date by which CETC must submit (1) an annual plan for coordinating all state employment and training programs and (2) recommendations for policies and procedures to improve program coordination. CETC submits the plan and recommendations to the governor for approval.

The January 31 date coincides with an existing statutory deadline for CETC to submit a progress report on its duties, responsibilities, and goals to the governor and the Appropriations, Education, Labor, and Human Services committees.

§ 2 — REPEAL OF SUFFICIENCY MEASUREMENT UPDATE

The act repeals the requirement that OWC triennially update a self-sufficiency measurement originally developed in 1999 by a private vendor under contract with OPM. It also repeals the requirement that the updated measurement be distributed to all state agencies that counsel people seeking education, training, or employment. The measurement calculates a sufficient income for a person, depending on where he or she lives in the state and the size of the family he or she supports.

§ 7 — NEW EMPLOYEES INFORMATION

The act replaces a biweekly exchange of information between DSS and DOL to check whether any people receiving public assistance have become newly employed, with the requirement that DOL execute memoranda of understanding (MOU) with DSS and HIX to accomplish a similar exchange of information. It adds supplemental security income (SSI) to the list of programs included in the information exchange.

The act requires DOL to execute separate MOUs with DSS and HIX to establish procedures to furnish wage and claim information from DOL records to help DSS and HIX determine eligibility for:

1. the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program;
2. Medicaid;
3. food stamps (presumably supplemental nutrition assistance program, i.e., SNAP);
4. SSI; and
5. other state supplement and state-administered general assistance programs.

The MOUs must contain appropriate confidentiality safeguards regarding the wage and claim information.

Once the MOUs are in place, DOL must furnish the wage and claim information to DSS and any of its agents that perform services associated with HIX, and HIX or any of its agents. Presumably, the claim information refers to unemployment benefit claims that DOL processes.

Prior law required DSS to prepare a biweekly list of people receiving public assistance (TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, state supplement and state-administered

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general assistance programs) and send it to DOL. DOL had to promptly identify any newly employed person on the DSS list and transmit his or her name, address, and Social Security number to DSS along with the employer's name, address, and state and federal tax registration or identification numbers.

By law, DSS must reimburse DOL for the costs of providing this information and for maintaining a toll-free facsimile number for employers required to report new employee information. The act also requires HIX to reimburse DOL for these costs. It also requires the HIX chief executive officer to enter into a purchase of service agreement with DOL to establish administrative procedures. By law, the DSS commissioner must already do this.

§ 8 — FILM INDUSTRY WORKFORCE TRAINING

The act repeals (1) the law requiring OWC to establish a film industry workforce training program and (2) the requirement for an annual status report on the program.

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