

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 6860**

LCO No. 5338

**AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE
TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR EMPLOYABLE YOUNG ADULTS
WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For purposes of this section, (1)
2 "young adult" means a person not younger than twenty-one years of
3 age and not older than thirty-one years of age, and (2) "employable"
4 means capable of working not less than twenty hours per week.

5 (b) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, in consultation
6 with the Commissioner of Developmental Services, shall establish a
7 two-year pilot program in Hartford and New Haven counties to
8 provide not more than one hundred employable young adults with
9 autism spectrum disorder with vocational training and information
10 designed to improve employment opportunities. The pilot program
11 shall include (1) an informational campaign designed to increase
12 awareness about (A) available vocational services and eligibility for
13 such services and (B) the impact, or lack thereof, of paid employment
14 on public assistance benefits, (2) outreach to potential employers, (3)
15 identification of barriers to access to vocational services offered by the
16 Department of Rehabilitation, (4) a strategy to break down such
17 barriers, (5) family counseling to ensure participants in the pilot

18 program can work scheduled hours, and (6) job coaches who work
19 through the Department of Developmental Services.

20 (c) Not later than July 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Rehabilitation
21 Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Developmental
22 Services, shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
23 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the
24 General Assembly having cognizance of matters concerning public
25 health and human services regarding (1) the percentage of participants
26 in the pilot program who are employed not less than twenty hours per
27 week compared to the percentage of employable young adults with
28 autism spectrum disorder in Hartford and New Haven counties who
29 are not participants in the pilot program and who are employed not
30 less than twenty hours per week, (2) the cost of the pilot program, and
31 (3) recommendations to expand the pilot program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section