



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT SANCHEZ**  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER  
TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4018  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267  
FAX: (860) 240-0206  
E-MAIL: Bobby.Sanchez@cga.ct.gov

**VICE CHAIR**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE  
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT  
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

**Testimony of State Representative Robert Sanchez**  
**To the Labor and Public Employees Committee,**  
**In support of: Senate Bill 985, *An Act Concerning Barbershops and Apprenticeships***

**Public Hearing March 3, 2015**

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, ranking members and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for Senate Bill 985, AN ACT CONCERNING BARBERSHOPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS which will create an apprenticeship program for barbers in the state of Connecticut.

Currently, under the state of Connecticut law, in order to obtain a DOL barber license one must: (1) have graduated eighth grade or its equivalent (2) have successfully completed at least 1,000 hours of study in a barber school approved by the Connecticut State Board for Barbers, (3) pass a DPH-prescribed written examination, and (4) pay a \$100 fee.

Under New York law, an individual is able to obtain his barber license by completing an apprenticeship under a New York licensed barber for a minimum length of two years, as well as passing the board written examination. This apprenticeship program was enacted as a way to alleviate the financial burden of attending barber school and put these young men to work.

Other states that offer apprenticeship programs as an alternative to barber school are: Massachusetts, Alabama, and California. These states have realized the value that an apprenticeship program has for the young men as well as for the economy for the state.

The bill as written does need one correction which is to move the approval authority from the Department of Health to the Department of Labor as agreed upon by the Commissioner of Labor as well as the DOL report regarding Special Act 13-12 dated February 2014. In enacting this bill it would assist many of our young men and women to have a clear path to training and employment. Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.