



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2015

LCO No. 6872



Offered by:
SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 431

File No. 251

Cal. No. 198

"AN ACT CONCERNING FOREIGN WORKER RECRUITMENT."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) The Labor Department
4 shall collaborate with the Planning Commission for Higher Education,
5 established pursuant to section 10a-11b of the general statutes, as
6 amended by this act, to align the employment requirements for careers
7 within certain growth potential industries with the programs offered
8 by the constituent units of higher education in the state.

9 Sec. 502. Section 10a-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the
10 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

11 (a) There is established a Planning Commission for Higher
12 Education to develop and ensure the implementation of a strategic
13 master plan for higher education in Connecticut.

14 (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:

15 (A) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of
16 Representatives, who shall have experience as former administrators
17 or faculty members in independent institutions of higher education in
18 this state; (B) two members appointed by the president pro tempore of
19 the Senate, one of whom shall be a former administrator or faculty
20 member of a regional community-technical college and one of whom
21 shall be a former administrator or faculty member of The University of
22 Connecticut; (C) two members appointed by the majority leader of the
23 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a former
24 administrator or faculty member of a state university in the
25 Connecticut State University System and one of whom shall be a
26 former administrator or faculty member of Charter Oak State College;
27 (D) two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one
28 of whom shall have experience in the field of arts and culture and one
29 of whom shall have experience in the field of health care; (E) two
30 members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
31 Representatives who shall have knowledge and expertise in science
32 and technology; (F) two members appointed by the minority leader of
33 the Senate who shall represent state-wide business organizations; and
34 (G) five members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall
35 represent a nonprofit education foundation, one of whom shall have
36 experience in university research and its commercial application and
37 one of whom shall have experience in the field of education from
38 prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive. The commission
39 membership shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic
40 diversity.

41 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting
42 members on the commission: (A) The president of the Board of
43 Regents for Higher Education, the Commissioner of Education, the
44 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
45 Labor Commissioner, or their designees; (B) the chairpersons of the
46 boards of trustees and the chief executive officers of each constituent
47 unit of the state system of higher education, or their designees; (C) the
48 chairperson of the board and president of the Connecticut Conference

49 of Independent Colleges, or their designees; (D) the chairpersons and
50 ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General
51 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
52 and employment advancement; and (E) the Secretary of the Office of
53 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

54 (3) The commission shall elect a chairperson at its first meeting. Any
55 vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. The term of each
56 appointed member of the commission shall be three years from the
57 date of appointment. The commission members shall serve without
58 compensation except for necessary expenses incurred in the
59 performance of their duties. The commission may seek the advice and
60 participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it
61 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The
62 commission may, within available appropriations, retain consultants to
63 assist in carrying out its duties. The commission may receive funds
64 from any public or private sources to carry out its activities.

65 (b) In accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section
66 10a-6, the commission shall develop and ensure the implementation of
67 a strategic master plan that:

68 (1) Examines the impact of demographic, workforce and education
69 trends on higher education in the state;

70 (2) (A) Establishes numerical goals for 2015 and 2020 to increase the
71 number of people earning a bachelor's degree, associate degree or
72 certificate, increases the number of people successfully completing
73 coursework at the community college level and the number of people
74 entering the state's workforce and eliminates the postsecondary
75 achievement gap between minority students and the general student
76 population, and (B) includes specific strategies for meeting such goals,
77 as well as strategies for meeting the goals pursuant to subdivision (2)
78 of subsection (a) of section 10a-6;

79 (3) Examines and recommends changes to funding policies,

80 practices and accountability in order to (A) align policies and practices
81 with the goals set forth in subsection (b) of section 10a-6, including an
82 evaluation of the use of strategic and performance-based incentive
83 funding; (B) determine how the constituent units shall annually report
84 to the General Assembly and the public in a transparent and thorough
85 manner regarding each constituent unit's expenditures, staffing and
86 state support, including the state appropriation, personnel expenses,
87 personnel fringe benefits, capital improvement bonds and financial aid
88 to students; and (C) improve coordination of appropriation, tuition
89 and financial aid and seek ways to maximize funding through federal
90 and private grants; and

91 (4) Recommends ways in which each constituent unit of the state
92 system of higher education and independent institution of higher
93 education in the state can, in a manner consistent with such
94 institution's mission, expand such institution's role in advancing the
95 state's economic growth, including, but not limited to, developing
96 curriculum to provide training for students seeking opportunities in
97 growth potential industries within the state.

98 (c) In developing the strategic master plan, the commission shall
99 review the plans pursuant to sections 10a-6 and 10a-11. In addition, the
100 commission may consider the following: (1) Establishing incentives for
101 institutional performance and productivity; (2) increasing financial aid
102 incentive programs, especially in workforce shortage areas and for
103 minority students; (3) implementing mandatory college preparatory
104 curricula in high schools and aligning such curricula with curricula in
105 institutions of higher education; (4) seeking partnerships with the
106 business community and public institutions of higher education to
107 serve the needs of workforce retraining that may include bridge
108 programs in which businesses work directly with higher education
109 institutions to move students into identified workforce shortage areas;
110 (5) establishing collaborative partnerships between public high schools
111 and institutions of higher education; (6) implementing programs in
112 high school to assist high school students seeking a college track or

113 alternative pathways for post-secondary education, such as vocational
114 and technical opportunities; (7) developing policies to promote and
115 measure retention and graduation rates of students, including
116 graduation rates for students who have transferred among two or
117 more constituent units or public institutions of higher education; (8)
118 addressing the educational needs of minority students and
119 nontraditional students, including, but not limited to, part-time
120 students, incumbent workers, adult learners, former inmates and
121 immigrants, in order to increase enrollment and retention in
122 institutions of higher education; and (9) addressing the affordability of
123 tuition at institutions of higher education and the issue of increased
124 student indebtedness.

125 (d) Not later than June 1, 2014, the commission shall submit a
126 preliminary report on the development of the strategic master plan
127 and, not later than September 1, 2014, the commission shall submit the
128 strategic master plan, including specific goals and benchmarks for the
129 years ending 2020 and 2025, together with any recommendations for
130 appropriate legislation and funding to the Governor and the joint
131 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
132 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
133 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with the
134 provisions of section 11-4a.

135 (e) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the
136 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint
137 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
138 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
139 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with
140 section 11-4a, on the implementation of the plan and progress made
141 toward achieving the goals specified in the plan. The commission may
142 periodically suggest changes to the goals as necessary."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Sec. 501	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 502	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	10a-11b