



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 209

February Session, 2016

Senate Bill No. 222

Senate, March 24, 2016

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through SEN. GOMES of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF OBSOLETE REPORTS AND PROGRAMS INVOLVING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 31-3h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 (a) There is created, within the Labor Department, the Connecticut
4 Employment and Training Commission.

5 (b) The duties and responsibilities of the commission shall include:

6 (1) Carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a state job training
7 coordinating council pursuant to the federal Job Training Partnership
8 Act, 29 USC 1532, as amended from time to time, a state human
9 resource investment council pursuant to 29 USC 1501 et seq., as
10 amended from time to time, and such other related entities as the
11 Governor may direct;

12 (2) Reviewing all employment and training programs in the state to

13 determine their success in leading to and obtaining the goal of
14 economic self-sufficiency and to determine if such programs are
15 serving the needs of Connecticut's workers, employers and economy;

16 (3) Developing a plan for the coordination of all employment and
17 training programs in the state to avoid duplication and to promote the
18 delivery of comprehensive, individualized employment and training
19 services and the reemployment of workers fifty years of age or older.
20 The plan shall contain the commission's recommendations for policies
21 and procedures to enhance the coordination and collaboration of all
22 such programs; [and shall be submitted on January 31, 2015, and
23 annually thereafter, to the Governor for the Governor's approval;]

24 (4) Reviewing and commenting on all employment and training
25 programs enacted by the General Assembly;

26 (5) Implementing the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L.
27 105-220, as amended from time to time. Such implementation shall
28 include (A) developing, in consultation with the regional workforce
29 development boards, a single Connecticut workforce development
30 plan that (i) complies with the provisions of said act and section 31-
31 11p, and (ii) includes comprehensive state performance measures for
32 workforce development activities specified in Title I of the federal
33 Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as amended from time
34 to time, which performance measures comply with the requirements of
35 20 CFR Part 666.100, (B) [preparing and submitting a report on the
36 state's progress in achieving such performance measures to the
37 Governor and the General Assembly annually on January thirty-first,
38 (C)] making recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the
39 allocation of funds received by the state under said act and making
40 recommendations to the regional workforce development boards
41 concerning the use of formulas in allocating such funds to adult
42 employment and job training activities and youth activities, as
43 specified in said act, [(D)] (C) providing oversight and coordination of
44 the state-wide employment statistics system required by said act, [(E)]
45 (D) as appropriate, recommending to the Governor that the Governor

46 apply for workforce flexibility plans and waiver authority under said
47 act, after consultation with the regional workforce development
48 boards, [(F)] (E) developing performance criteria for regional
49 workforce development boards to utilize in creating a list of eligible
50 providers, and [(G)] (F) on or before December 31, 1999, developing a
51 uniform individual training accounts voucher system that shall be
52 used by the regional workforce development boards to pay for training
53 of eligible workers by eligible providers, as required under said act;

54 (6) Developing and overseeing a plan for the continuous
55 improvement of the regional workforce development boards
56 established pursuant to section 31-3k, as amended by this act;

57 (7) Developing incumbent worker, and vocational and manpower
58 training programs, including customized job training programs to
59 enhance the productivity of Connecticut businesses and to increase the
60 skills and earnings of underemployed and at-risk workers, and other
61 programs administered by the regional workforce development
62 boards. The Labor Department, in collaboration with the regional
63 workforce development boards, shall implement any incumbent
64 worker and customized job training programs developed by the
65 commission pursuant to this subdivision;

66 (8) Developing a strategy for providing comprehensive services to
67 eligible youths, which strategy shall include developing youth
68 preapprentice and apprentice programs through, but not limited to,
69 technical high schools, and improving linkages between academic and
70 occupational learning and other youth development activities; and

71 (9) Coordinating an electronic state hiring campaign to encourage
72 the reemployment of workers fifty years of age or older to be
73 administered through the Labor Department's Internet web site, which
74 shall include testimony from various employers that demonstrates the
75 value of hiring and retaining workers fifty years of age or older. Not
76 later than January 1, 2015, the commission shall submit a report, in
77 accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
78 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor on

79 the status of such campaign.

80 [(c) On January 31, 2000, and annually thereafter, the Connecticut
81 Employment and Training Commission shall submit to the Governor
82 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
83 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, education, labor and
84 social services a report on the progress made by the commission in
85 carrying out its duties and responsibilities during the preceding year
86 and the commission's goals and objectives for the current year.]

87 Sec. 2. Section 31-3k of the general statutes is repealed and the
88 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

89 (a) There is established within the Labor Department a regional
90 work force development board for each work force development
91 region in the state. Each board shall assess the needs and priorities for
92 investing in the development of human resources within the region
93 and shall coordinate a broad range of employment, education, training
94 and related services that shall be focused on client-centered, lifelong
95 learning and shall be responsive to the needs of local business,
96 industry, the region, its municipalities and its citizens.

97 (b) Each board, within its region, shall:

98 (1) Carry out the duties and responsibilities of a private industry
99 council under the Job Training Partnership Act, provided the private
100 industry council within the region elects by a vote of its members to
101 become a board and the Labor Commissioner approves the council as a
102 regional work force development board.

103 (2) Within existing resources and consistent with the state
104 employment and training information system and any guidelines
105 issued by the commissioner under subsection (b) of section 31-2, [and
106 with the annual plan developed by the commission under section 31-
107 3h and approved by the Governor,] (A) assess regional needs and
108 identify regional priorities for employment and training programs,
109 including, but not limited to, an assessment of the special employment

110 needs of unskilled and low-skilled unemployed persons, including
111 persons receiving state-administered general assistance or short-term
112 unemployment assistance, (B) conduct planning for regional
113 employment and training programs, (C) coordinate such programs to
114 ensure that the programs respond to the needs of labor, business and
115 industry, municipalities within the region, the region as a whole, and
116 all of its citizens, (D) serve as a clearinghouse for information on all
117 employment and training programs in the region, (E) prepare and
118 submit an annual plan containing the board's priorities and goals for
119 regional employment and training programs to the commissioner and
120 the commission for their review and approval, (F) review grant
121 proposals and plans submitted to state agencies for employment and
122 training programs that directly affect the region to determine whether
123 such proposals and plans are consistent with the annual regional plan
124 prepared under subparagraph (E) of this subdivision and inform the
125 commission and each state agency concerned of the results of the
126 review, (G) evaluate the effectiveness of employment and training
127 programs within the region in meeting the goals contained in the
128 annual regional plan prepared under subparagraph (E) of this
129 subdivision and report its findings to the commissioner and the
130 commission on an annual basis, (H) ensure the effective use of
131 available employment and training resources in the region, and (I)
132 allocate funds where applicable for program operations in the region.

133 (3) Provide information to the commissioner concerning (A) all
134 employment and training programs, grants or funds to be effective or
135 available in the region in the following program year, (B) the source
136 and purpose of such programs, grants or funds, (C) the projected
137 amount of such programs, grants or funds, (D) persons, organizations
138 and institutions eligible to participate in such programs or receive such
139 grants or funds, (E) characteristics of clients eligible to receive services
140 pursuant to such programs, grants or funds, (F) the range of services
141 available pursuant to such programs, grants or funds, (G) goals of such
142 programs, grants or funds, (H) where applicable, schedules for
143 submitting requests for proposals, planning instructions, proposals
144 and plans, in connection with such programs, grants or funds, (I) the

145 program period for such programs, grants or funds, and (J) any other
146 data relating to such programs, grants or funds that the commissioner
147 or the commission deems essential for effective state planning.

148 (4) Carry out the duties and responsibilities of the local board for
149 purposes of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-
150 220, as from time to time amended.

151 (5) Establish a worker training education committee comprised of
152 persons from the education and business communities within the
153 region, including, but not limited to, regional community-technical
154 colleges and technical high schools.

155 (c) Each board shall make use of grants or contracts with
156 appropriate service providers to furnish all program services under
157 sections 31-3j to 31-3r, inclusive, unless the commission concurs with
158 the board that direct provision of a service by the board is necessary to
159 assure adequate availability of the service or that a service of
160 comparable quality can be provided more economically by the board.
161 Any board seeking to provide services directly shall include in the
162 annual regional plan submitted to the commissioner and the
163 commission under subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection
164 (b) of this section its plan to provide services directly and appropriate
165 justification for the need to do so. When the decision to provide
166 services directly must be made between annual planning cycles, the
167 board shall submit to the commissioner and the commission a plan of
168 service and appropriate justification for the need to provide services
169 directly. Such plan of service shall be subject to review and approval
170 by the commission.

171 (d) On October 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, each board shall
172 submit to the Labor Department comprehensive performance
173 measures detailing the results of any education, employment or job
174 training program or activity funded by moneys allocated to the board,
175 including, but not limited to, programs and activities specified in the
176 federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to
177 time amended. Such performance measures shall include, but shall not

178 be limited to, the identity and performance of any vendor that enters
179 into a contract with the board to conduct, manage or assist with such
180 programs or activities, the costs associated with such programs or
181 activities, the number, gender and race of persons served by such
182 programs or activities, the number, gender and race of persons
183 completing such programs or activities, occupational skill types, the
184 number, gender and race of persons who enter unsubsidized
185 employment upon completion of such programs or activities, the
186 number, gender and race of persons who remain in unsubsidized
187 employment six months later and the earnings received by such
188 persons.

189 Sec. 3. Section 31-3o of the general statutes is repealed and the
190 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

191 (a) The commission shall review and approve each annual regional
192 plan prepared pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of
193 subsection (b) of section 31-3k, as amended by this act.

194 (b) The commission shall ensure that the membership of each board
195 satisfies the representation requirements of section 31-3l and
196 regulations adopted by the commissioner under section 31-3n.

197 (c) The commission [, in developing the annual plan for the
198 coordination of all employment and training programs in the state
199 under section 31-3h,] shall review and consider the annual report of
200 each board evaluating the effectiveness of employment and training
201 programs, prepared pursuant to subparagraph (G) of subdivision (2)
202 of subsection (b) of section 31-3k, as amended by this act.

203 Sec. 4. Section 31-3u of the general statutes is repealed and the
204 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

205 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
206 may allocate the funds authorized for the purposes of this section by
207 subsection (b) of section 32-235 to the Labor Commissioner for the
208 purpose of providing assistance to employers (1) for the job training or

209 retraining of (A) current employees or (B) prospective employees in
210 newly-created jobs and (2) including, but not limited to, meeting ISO
211 9000 quality standards. The Labor Commissioner, upon the
212 recommendation of the Commissioner of Economic and Community
213 Development, shall provide for such training or retraining through
214 customized job training programs authorized under this chapter. The
215 Labor Commissioner may use vouchers for the purposes of this
216 subsection.

217 (b) The Labor Commissioner and the Commissioner of Economic
218 and Community Development shall jointly develop criteria for the
219 evaluation and assessment of the assistance provided under subsection
220 (a) of this section.

221 [(c) The Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the
222 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, shall
223 submit an annual report to the joint standing committees of the
224 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
225 Department of Economic and Community Development and the Labor
226 Department on the assistance provided under subsection (a) of this
227 section.]

228 Sec. 5. Section 31-11t of the general statutes is repealed and the
229 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

230 (a) The Connecticut Employment and Training Commission shall
231 provide each regional workforce development board with criteria for
232 the evaluation of funded programs, including a description of the
233 amount, type and effectiveness of literacy training provided to
234 participants, the number of persons completing job training, the
235 gender and race of persons who receive training, occupational skill
236 types, the number of persons who enter unsubsidized employment,
237 the number of persons who remain in unsubsidized employment six
238 months later and the earnings received by such persons.

239 (b) The commission shall develop an education and job training
240 report card to assess the accomplishments of Connecticut's workforce

241 development system and for meeting the accountability requirements
242 of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from
243 time to time amended. The report card shall address the effectiveness
244 of such system in meeting (1) employers' needs for educated and
245 trained workers, and (2) clients' needs for improving their economic
246 well-being.

247 [(c) The commission shall include the evaluation of funded
248 programs in the annual report submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of
249 section 31-3h.]

250 Sec. 6. Section 10-95f of the general statutes is repealed and the
251 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

252 (a) Whenever the term "regional vocational-technical school" or
253 "regional vocational-technical schools" is used or referred to in the
254 following sections of the general statutes, the term "technical high
255 school" or "technical high schools" shall be substituted in lieu thereof:
256 4-124ff, 4a-11a, 4d-83, 5-275, 8-265pp, 10-9, 10-19d, 10-19e, 10-21g, 10-
257 66p, 10-67, 10-74d, 10-76q, 10-95a, 10-95j, 10-95n, 10-95o, 10-97, 10-98a,
258 10-233d, 10-235, 10-264l, 10-283, 10-287d, 10a-55e, 10a-55g, 10a-72d,
259 17b-610, 31-3c, 31-3h, as amended by this act, 31-3k, as amended by
260 this act, 31-11p, 32-4i, 32-6j and 32-475.

261 (b) Whenever the term "vocational-technical school" or "vocational-
262 technical schools" is used or referred to in the following sections of the
263 general statutes, the term "technical high school" or "technical high
264 schools" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 1-79, 1-84d, 1-91, 4-67g, 4-
265 124z, 4-124hh, 4a-2, 10-15d, 10-19e, 10-21g, 10-69, 10-95a, 10-95l, 10-235,
266 10-262n, 10-284, 10a-25b, 17b-688i [, 31-3ee] and 31-51ww.

267 (c) Whenever the term "vocational school" or "vocational schools" is
268 used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the
269 term "technical high school" or "technical high schools" shall be
270 substituted in lieu thereof: 4-29, 10-13, 10-55, 10-64, 10-97, 10-186, 10a-
271 123, 10a-166, 14-36, 20-90, 31-23, 31-24, 38a-682 and 48-9.

272 (d) The Legislative Commissioners' Office shall, in codifying the
 273 provisions of this section, make such technical, grammatical and
 274 punctuation changes as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this
 275 section.

276 Sec. 7. Sections 31-3ee and 4-124ww of the general statutes are
 277 repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	31-3h
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	31-3k
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	31-3o
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	31-3u
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	31-11t
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10-95f
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

LAB *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill repeals various reports currently statutorily required of the Department of Labor. As the reports repealed in the bill are either obsolete or duplicative of other agency products it is not anticipated that the elimination of the reporting requirements will result in a reduction in agency resources. Thus, the bill does not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 222*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF OBSOLETE REPORTS AND PROGRAMS INVOLVING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates several reporting requirements for the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC), the Labor Department, and the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC).

It also makes various conforming and technical changes, including repealing an obsolete law on a pilot program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for repealing the pilot program and eliminating OWC's required report on workforce shortages and October 1, 2016 for all other provisions.

ELIMINATED CETC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

By law, CETC is charged with developing a plan to coordinate the state's employment and job training efforts. The bill eliminates the requirement that CETC annually submit the plan to the governor for approval. It also removes a requirement that regional workforce boards conform to this plan when they plan and coordinate their own activities and duties.

By law, CETC must also develop a statewide workforce development plan, in consultation with the regional workforce development boards, that includes performance measures for various workforce development activities. The bill eliminates the requirement that CETC submit to the governor and the General Assembly an annual report on the state's progress in achieving these performance measures.

The bill also eliminates a requirement that CETC annually submit a

report on its progress in carrying out its duties and responsibilities to the governor and the Appropriations, Education, Labor and Public Employees, and Human Services committees.

By law CETC must consider a number of things when preparing its plan to coordinate the state’s employment and job training efforts. The bill eliminates the requirement that it review each regional workforce development board’s annual report as part of the process.

LABOR DEPARTMENT AND OWC REPORTING ELIMINATED

Table 1 shows the other reporting requirements the bill eliminates.

Table 1: Eliminated Labor Related Reporting Requirements

<i>Agency Responsible for Report</i>	<i>Subject Matter and Report Frequency</i>
Labor Department	Annually to the Labor and Commerce committees on assistance to businesses for job training, including training for ISO 9000 quality standards
Office of Workforce Competitiveness	Annually to the Board of Regents on workforce shortages and career pathways

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/10/2016)