



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2017

LCO No. 8658



Offered by:

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To: House Bill No. 5590

File No. 213

Cal. No. 166

**"AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1,  
4 2017, the Labor Commissioner may establish a working group to  
5 review business support services in the state. Such working group may  
6 consist of one business services representative from each of the  
7 following agencies: (1) The Labor Department, (2) the Department of  
8 Economic and Community Development, and (3) the Workforce  
9 Development Board. Such working group may review business  
10 support services offered by such agencies and consider ways to better  
11 coordinate such services to benefit businesses in the state, including,

12 but not limited to, the development of (A) a shared database of  
13 business support services, and (B) shared marketing materials. The  
14 Labor Commissioner may make recommendations for legislation to the  
15 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
16 having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees,  
17 commerce and higher education and employment advancement.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) (a) The Labor Commissioner  
19 shall develop and implement a universal intake form to be completed  
20 by each person entering any American Job Center or Workforce  
21 Development Board facility. Such form shall request information from  
22 each such person as said commissioner deems necessary in order to  
23 report to the General Assembly in accordance with subsection (b) of  
24 this section.

25 (b) On or before December 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the  
26 Labor Commissioner shall report to the joint standing committee of the  
27 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and  
28 public employees, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
29 the general statutes, the following: (1) The number of persons utilizing  
30 the job training programs and services provided by each American Job  
31 Center or Workforce Development Board facility, (2) the number of  
32 persons who obtained jobs subsequent to utilizing such job training  
33 programs and services, (3) the categorization of job skills indicated on  
34 the universal intake form and the number of persons with each of such  
35 skills, (4) a determination of the job skills necessary for employment in  
36 the state, (5) the number of persons in various directed pathways, (6)  
37 the average wage or salary of the positions of persons who obtain jobs  
38 subsequent to utilizing such job training programs and services, and  
39 (7) the industry sectors in which such persons obtain jobs subsequent  
40 to utilizing such job training programs and services.

41 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) (a) For purposes of this section,  
42 "soft skills" means character traits and interpersonal skills, such as  
43 social skills, communication skills and attitudes, that characterize a  
44 person's relationship with other people and do not rely on acquired

45 knowledge or technical skills.

46 (b) Not later than October 1, 2017, the Labor Commissioner shall  
47 prepare and issue a request for proposals for the development and  
48 implementation of a soft skills program. The request for proposals  
49 shall require each person, firm or corporation submitting a proposal to  
50 (1) demonstrate coordination with an emerging industry partner in the  
51 state in developing a soft skills curriculum, and (2) provide any other  
52 information deemed necessary by the commissioner.

53 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

54 (1) "Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce  
55 Information Network" or "CP20 WIN" means the Preschool through  
56 Twenty and Workforce Information Network maintained in the state.

57 (2) "Data definitions" means the plain language descriptions of data  
58 elements.

59 (3) "Data dictionary" means a listing of the names of a set of data  
60 elements, their definitions and additional meta-data that does not  
61 contain any actual data, but provides information about the data in a  
62 data set.

63 (4) "Data elements" mean units of information that are stored or  
64 accessed in any data system, such as a student identification number,  
65 course code or cumulative grade point average.

66 (5) "Meta-data" means the information about a data element that  
67 provides context for that data element, such as its definition, storage  
68 location, format and size.

69 (6) "Participating agency" means the Connecticut State Colleges and  
70 Universities, Department of Education, Labor Department, The Office  
71 of Early Childhood, The University of Connecticut, the Connecticut  
72 Conference of Independent Colleges or any entity that has executed a  
73 memorandum of agreement for participation in the CP20 WIN and has  
74 been approved for participation by all other participating agencies.

75 (7) "Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information  
76 Network" or "P20 WIN" means a state data system for the purpose of  
77 matching and linking longitudinally data of state agencies and other  
78 organizations for the purpose of conducting audits and evaluations of  
79 federal and state education programs.

80 (8) "P20 WIN Data Request Management Procedure" means the  
81 document containing the data request management process.

82 (b) There is established a Connecticut Preschool through Twenty  
83 and Workforce Information Network. The purpose of the CP20 WIN is  
84 to establish processes and structures governing the secure sharing of  
85 critical longitudinal data across participating agencies through  
86 implementation of the standards and policies of the Preschool through  
87 Twenty and Workforce Information Network.

88 (c) The CP20 WIN shall be governed by an executive board that  
89 shall provide oversight of such network. Said executive board shall  
90 consist of the following members: The Labor Commissioner, or said  
91 commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Education, or said  
92 commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, or  
93 said commissioner's designee, the president of the Connecticut State  
94 Colleges and Universities, or the president's designee, the president of  
95 The University of Connecticut, or the president's designee, the  
96 chairperson of the board of the Connecticut Conference of  
97 Independent Colleges, or a designee of said board, and the secretary of  
98 the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee. The  
99 duties of the executive board shall be to:

100 (1) Advance a vision for the CP20 WIN including a prioritized  
101 research agenda with support from the Planning Commission for  
102 Higher Education.

103 (2) Convene as needed to respond to issues from the data governing  
104 board.

105 (3) Identify and work to secure resources necessary to sustain CP20

106 WIN funding.

107 (4) Support system implementation, maintenance and improvement  
108 by advocating for the CP20 WIN in regard to policy, legislation and  
109 resources.

110 (5) Advocate and support the state's vision for the CP20 WIN.

111 (6) Have overall fiscal and policy responsibility for the CP20 WIN.

112 (7) Ensure that, in any circumstances in which public funds or  
113 resources are to be jointly utilized with those from private entities,  
114 such arrangements are governed by appropriate agreements approved  
115 by the Attorney General.

116 (8) Establish a data governing board to establish and enforce  
117 policies related to cross-agency data management, including, but not  
118 limited to, data confidentiality and security in alignment with the  
119 vision for CP20 WIN and any applicable law. In establishing such  
120 policies, the data governing board shall consult with the Office of  
121 Policy and Management, in accordance with the provisions of section  
122 4-67n of the general statutes and other applicable statutes and policies.

123 (d) The executive board established pursuant to this section may  
124 appoint advisory committees to make recommendations on data  
125 stewardship, data system expansion and processes, and such other  
126 areas that will advance the work of CP20 WIN.

127 Sec. 5. Section 31-11ff of the general statutes is repealed and the  
128 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

129 (a) For purposes of this section:

130 [(1) "Contextualized learning" means education in a learning  
131 environment chosen or designed by educators to incorporate as many  
132 different forms of experience as possible, including social, cultural,  
133 physical and psychological experiences, to achieve the desired learning  
134 outcomes;]

135 [(2)] (1) "Early college high school" means a school in which persons  
136 who are underrepresented in higher education, including, but not  
137 limited to, low-income youth, first-generation college students, English  
138 language learners and minority students, may simultaneously earn,  
139 tuition free, a high school diploma and an associate degree or up to  
140 two years of credit toward a bachelor's degree; [and]

141 [(3)] (2) "Middle college program" means a collaboration between a  
142 school district's high schools and a regional-community technical  
143 college or a four-year college or university where a student may (A)  
144 take core high school courses or courses for which college or  
145 university-level credit may be given, and (B) attribute all such credits  
146 earned toward a program of higher learning at an institution of higher  
147 education in which such student enrolls upon graduation from the  
148 middle college program; and

149 (3) "Connecticut Early College Opportunity program" or "CT-ECO"  
150 means a collaboration between a school district's high schools, a local  
151 community college and a company or business entity where a student  
152 may earn an industry-recognized, two-year postsecondary degree in  
153 addition to a high school diploma.

154 (b) The Connecticut Employment and Training Commission shall  
155 develop, in collaboration with the Connecticut state colleges and  
156 universities, Department of Education, and regional work force  
157 development boards established pursuant to section 31-3j, a state-wide  
158 plan for implementing, expanding or improving upon [contextualized  
159 learning programs,] career certificate programs established under  
160 section 10-20a, middle college programs, [and] early college high  
161 school programs and Connecticut Early College Opportunity  
162 programs to provide education, training and placement in jobs  
163 available in the manufacturing, health care, construction, [and] green,  
164 science, technology, engineering and mathematics industries and other  
165 emerging sectors of the state's economy. Such plan shall include a  
166 proposal to fund such programs.

167 (c) (1) Not later than January 1, [2015] 2018, the Connecticut  
168 Employment and Training Commission shall report, in accordance  
169 with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the plan developed under  
170 subsection (b) of this section, to the joint standing committee of the  
171 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
172 education and employment advancement.

173 (2) Not later than September 1, [2015] 2018, and annually thereafter,  
174 said commission shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
175 section 11-4a, on the status of [such] programs included in the plan  
176 developed under subsection (b) of this section to the joint standing  
177 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
178 relating to higher education and employment advancement.

179 Sec. 6. Section 10a-1b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
180 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

181 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall appoint a  
182 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities who shall  
183 serve at the pleasure of the board. The president of the Connecticut  
184 State Colleges and Universities shall (1) have the authority to  
185 implement the policies, directives and rules of the board and any  
186 additional responsibilities as the board may prescribe, (2) implement  
187 the goals identified in section 10a-11c and recommendations made  
188 pursuant to section 10a-11b, (3) build interdependent support among  
189 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
190 technical college system and Charter Oak State College, (4) balance  
191 central authority with institutional differentiation, autonomy and  
192 creativity, and (5) facilitate cooperation and synergy among the  
193 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
194 technical college system and Charter Oak State College. The president  
195 may designate an alternate to serve as a member of any commission,  
196 foundation or committee upon which the general statutes require the  
197 president to serve. Such designee may vote on behalf of the president.  
198 There shall be an executive staff responsible for the operation of the  
199 Board of Regents for Higher Education. The executive staff shall be

200 under the direction of the president of the Connecticut State Colleges  
201 and Universities, who shall be the chief executive officer of the Board  
202 of Regents for Higher Education.

203 (b) The president may employ staff as is deemed necessary,  
204 including, but not limited to, temporary assistants and consultants.  
205 The board shall establish terms and conditions of employment of the  
206 president and the board's staff, prescribe their duties and fix the  
207 compensation of the president and the board's professional and  
208 technical personnel.

209 (c) Upon recommendation of the president, the Board of Regents for  
210 Higher Education shall appoint two vice-presidents. One vice-  
211 president shall represent the Connecticut State University System and  
212 the other vice-president shall represent the regional community-  
213 technical college system. Each vice-president shall perform such duties  
214 and responsibilities as the board and president shall prescribe, so that  
215 each said constituent unit fulfills its mission. Such duties shall include,  
216 but not be limited to, oversight of academic programs, student support  
217 services and institutional support.

218 (d) Not later than October 1, 2017, the president of the Connecticut  
219 State Colleges and Universities shall establish the position of outreach  
220 coordinator within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities  
221 system. Such outreach coordinator shall act as a liaison between  
222 institutions within the system and businesses in the state to develop  
223 workforce education and job training opportunities including Early  
224 College Opportunity programs. Such position may be full time or part  
225 time and may be held by an individual who also holds another  
226 position within said system as part of such individual's regular duties  
227 and without additional compensation.

228 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section and  
229 sections 8 and 9 of this act:

230 (1) "Administrative costs" means the costs paid or incurred by the  
231 administrator, including, but not limited to, peer review costs,



232 professional fees, allocated staff costs and other out-of-pocket costs  
233 attributable to the administration and operation of the Workforce  
234 Training Authority Fund;

235 (2) "Administrator" means the Department of Labor;

236 (3) "Board" means the Workforce Training Authority established  
237 pursuant to section 8 of this act; and

238 (4) "Eligible recipient" means a business entity, including, but not  
239 limited to, those businesses in the bioscience, insurance, financial  
240 services, advanced manufacturing, digital media, green technology  
241 and tourism industry sectors.

242 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
243 Workforce Training Authority that shall consist of the following  
244 members: (1) Four appointed by the Governor; (2) one appointed by  
245 the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) one appointed by the  
246 Senate Republican president pro tempore; (4) one appointed by the  
247 speaker of the House of Representatives; (5) one appointed by the  
248 majority leader of the Senate; (6) one appointed by the majority leader  
249 of the House of Representatives; (7) one appointed by the minority  
250 leader of the Senate; (8) one appointed by the minority leader of the  
251 House of Representatives; (9) the Labor Commissioner, or the  
252 commissioner's designee, who shall serve as the chairperson of the  
253 board; (10) the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and  
254 Community Development, or the commissioner's designee; (11) the  
255 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the  
256 president's designee; (12) the president of The University of  
257 Connecticut, or the president's designee; and (13) the Commissioner of  
258 Correction, or the commissioner's designee. Each legislatively  
259 appointed member shall have skill, knowledge or experience in  
260 industries and sciences related to insurance, financial services,  
261 bioscience, advance manufacturing, digital media, green technology,  
262 and tourism. All initial appointments to the board pursuant to this  
263 subsection shall be made not later than October 1, 2017. Appointed

264 members shall each serve a term that is coterminous with the  
265 respective appointing authority. Each member shall hold office until a  
266 successor is appointed. Any vacancy occurring on the board, other  
267 than by expiration of term, shall be filled in the same manner as the  
268 original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.

269 (b) The chairperson shall call the first meeting of the board not later  
270 than December 1, 2017. The board shall meet at such times as the  
271 chairperson deems necessary.

272 (c) No member of the board shall receive compensation for such  
273 member's services.

274 (d) A majority of the members of said board shall constitute a  
275 quorum for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any  
276 power of the board. The board may act by a majority of the members  
277 present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance for the  
278 transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the board,  
279 except as otherwise provided in this section.

280 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, it shall  
281 not constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner,  
282 officer, manager, shareholder, proprietor, counsel, public official acting  
283 in his or her official capacity or employee of an eligible recipient, or  
284 any individual with a financial interest in an eligible recipient, to serve  
285 as a member of the board, provided such trustee, director, partner,  
286 officer, manager, shareholder, proprietor, counsel, employee or  
287 individual shall abstain from deliberation, action or vote by the board  
288 concerning any matter relating to such eligible recipient, except such  
289 public official acting in his or her official capacity shall be permitted to  
290 engage in such deliberation.

291 (f) The board may develop industry-specific advisory councils to  
292 provide guidance on job market trends and develop connections with  
293 the business community.

294 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the

295 Workforce Training Authority Fund, which shall be an account in the  
296 Department of Labor. The following moneys shall be deposited in the  
297 fund: (1) any moneys received as part of a memorandum of  
298 understanding with the Workforce Training Authority; (2) all private  
299 contributions, gifts, grants, donations, bequests or devises received by  
300 the fund; and (3) to the extent not otherwise prohibited by state or  
301 federal law, any local, state or federal funds received by the fund.

302 (b) The Workforce Training Authority Fund shall be used: (1) To  
303 provide training assistance to eligible recipients as may be approved  
304 by the Workforce Training Authority pursuant to subsection (e) of this  
305 section, and (2) to pay or reimburse the administrator for  
306 administrative costs pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Such  
307 training assistance shall be awarded for the purpose of: Developing  
308 and implementing training programs for the recruitment of businesses  
309 to the state and the training or retraining of persons in the state to  
310 achieve the workforce goals established by the Connecticut  
311 Employment and Training Commission and the relevant sections of  
312 the strategic master plan for higher education developed pursuant to  
313 section 10a-11b of the general statutes. Training assistance shall target  
314 job growth in the areas of insurance, financial services, bioscience,  
315 advance manufacturing, digital media, green technology, and tourism.

316 (c) All expenditures from the Workforce Training Authority, except  
317 for administrative costs reimbursed to the administrator pursuant to  
318 subsection (h) of this section, shall be approved by the board, provided  
319 the board may delegate to staff of the administrator the approval of  
320 transactions not greater than one hundred thousand dollars. Any such  
321 approval by the board shall be (1) specific to an individual expenditure  
322 to be made; (2) for budgeted expenditures with such variations as the  
323 board may authorize at the time of such budget approval; or (3) for  
324 training assistance programs to be administered by staff of the  
325 administrator, subject to limits, eligibility requirements and other  
326 conditions established by the Workforce Training Authority at the time  
327 of such program approval.

328 (d) The administrator shall provide any necessary staff, office space,  
329 office systems and administrative support for the operation of the  
330 Workforce Training Authority Fund in accordance with this section. In  
331 acting as administrator of the fund, the Labor Department shall have  
332 and may exercise all of the powers set forth in the general statutes,  
333 provided expenditures from the fund shall be approved by the  
334 Workforce Training Authority pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
335 section.

336 (e) The Workforce Training Authority shall establish an application  
337 and approval process with guidelines and terms for the development  
338 and implementation of training programs awarded by the Workforce  
339 Training Authority Fund to any eligible recipient. Such guidelines and  
340 terms shall include: (1) A requirement that any applicant for training  
341 assistance operate in the state or propose to relocate operations to the  
342 state, in whole or in part, as a condition of such training assistance; (2)  
343 eligibility requirements for training, including a requirement for  
344 applicants to obtain matching funds from nonstate sources; (3) a  
345 process for preliminary review of applications for strength and  
346 eligibility by the administrator before such applications are presented  
347 to the board for consideration; (4) return on investment objectives,  
348 including, but not limited to, job growth and leveraged investment  
349 opportunities; (5) a requirement that any business that receives  
350 assistance must first consider applicants who have completed the  
351 universal intake form; and (6) such other guidelines and terms as the  
352 board determines to be necessary and appropriate in furtherance of the  
353 objectives of this section. In developing such guidelines, the board  
354 shall include considerations for the size of such businesses and the  
355 number of workers employed by such businesses. Additionally, the  
356 board shall give consideration to developing training programs and  
357 creating career pathways for formerly incarcerated individuals.

358 (f) Training assistance awarded from the Workforce Training  
359 Authority Fund to eligible recipients shall be used for costs related to  
360 facilities, necessary furniture, fixtures and equipment, development of  
361 programs, implementation of training programs, materials and

362 supplies, compensation, apprenticeship and such other costs that the  
363 Workforce Training Authority Board determines pursuant to  
364 subsection (e) of this section to be eligible for training assistance within  
365 the purposes of this section.

366 (g) On July 1, 2018, and prior to each fiscal year thereafter, the  
367 administrator shall prepare a plan of operations and an operating and  
368 capital budget for the Workforce Training Authority Fund, provided  
369 not later than ninety days prior to the start of each fiscal year, the  
370 administrator shall submit such plan and budget to the Workforce  
371 Training Authority Board for its review and approval.

372 (h) Administrative costs shall be paid or reimbursed to the  
373 administrator from the Workforce Training Authority Fund, provided  
374 the total of such administrative costs in any fiscal year shall not exceed  
375 five per cent of the total amount of the allotted funding for such fiscal  
376 year as determined in the operating budget prepared pursuant to  
377 subsection (g) of this section. Nothing in this section shall be deemed  
378 to require the administrator to risk or expend the funds of the Labor  
379 Department in connection with the administration of the Workforce  
380 Training Authority Fund.

381 (i) On January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, the administrator  
382 shall provide a report of the activities of the Workforce Training  
383 Authority Fund to the Workforce Training Authority for the board's  
384 review and approval. Upon such approval, the board shall provide  
385 such report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
386 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General  
387 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor, commerce  
388 and employment advancement. Such report shall contain available  
389 information on the status and progress of the operations and funding  
390 of the Workforce Training Authority Fund and the types, amounts and  
391 recipients of financial assistance awarded.

392 (j) The administrator shall consult with the office of apprenticeship  
393 training, the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission, the

394 Planning Commission on Higher Education and the Connecticut  
 395 Manufacturing Innovation Fund to ensure coordination and  
 396 compatibility of the development and implementation of training  
 397 programs awarded by the Workforce Training Authority Fund.

398 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before December 1,  
 399 2017, the Labor Commissioner shall submit a report to the joint  
 400 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 401 matters relating to labor and public employees, higher education and  
 402 workforce advancement, and education. The report shall include all  
 403 workforce reports published in coordination with the Labor  
 404 Department and other agencies. Such report shall also include  
 405 recommendations for (1) consolidating such reports, and (2) initiatives  
 406 related to promoting increased interagency data collection and  
 407 sharing."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	31-11ff
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	10a-1b
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section