



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

**Raised Bill No. 535**

LCO No. 3224



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:  
(FIN)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE APPRENTICESHIP CONNECTICUT INITIATIVE.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) There is established the  
2 Apprenticeship Connecticut initiative to develop work force pipeline  
3 programs to train qualified entry-level workers for job placement with  
4 manufacturers and employers in other industry sectors in the state that  
5 are experiencing sustained work force shortages. The initiative shall  
6 include, where practicable, outreach to underserved populations,  
7 including youths, to achieve success in the program and support the  
8 state's economic development progress.

9 (b) (1) Not later than January 1, 2019, the Labor Commissioner shall  
10 issue a request for qualifications to solicit proposals from regional  
11 industry partnerships for a work force pipeline program to serve the  
12 work force needs of manufacturers and other employers in the region.  
13 To be eligible to submit a proposal, a regional industry partnership  
14 shall include as members of such partnership (A) entities and

15 organizations with expertise in regional economic and work force  
16 development, including, but not limited to, entities offering  
17 apprenticeship or other work force training programs, (B) the regional  
18 work force development board, established pursuant to section 31-3k  
19 of the general statutes, for the applicable work force region, and (C) at  
20 least one educational institution such as a vocational-technical school  
21 or institution of higher education or at least one employer located in  
22 the work force region. A regional industry partnership may include  
23 other entities, organizations or institutions that support the goals of the  
24 partnership and initiative.

25 (2) Prior to the date established by the commissioner for the  
26 submission of responses to such request for qualifications, each  
27 regional work force development board shall submit a report to the  
28 General Assembly that sets forth the most pressing work force needs  
29 within such board's region and identifying the industry sector or  
30 sectors in which such needs are the greatest.

31 (c) Each proposal shall be submitted by the partnership through the  
32 regional work force development board and shall demonstrate the  
33 targeted goal of preparing qualified entry-level workers for careers  
34 that provide a living wage. Each proposal shall include plans for the  
35 following core program components:

36 (1) Identification of the region's most pressing work force needs and  
37 the industry sector or sectors in which such needs are the greatest, as  
38 reported to the General Assembly pursuant to subdivision (2) of  
39 subsection (b) of this section;

40 (2) Recruitment in the program of and outreach efforts to potential  
41 job seekers;

42 (3) (A) Screening and assessment of individuals interested in  
43 manufacturing work or employment in other sectors proposed to be  
44 targeted by the partnership. Screened individuals shall be assessed for  
45 work readiness, aptitude for the relevant work skills and on other

46 metrics as specified by the partnership or as recommended by the  
47 Labor Department;

48 (B) Individuals determined through the screening and assessment  
49 process not to be suited for participation in the program shall be  
50 redirected to or connected with alternative career resources or services  
51 available to residents of the state that may be better suited to such  
52 individual;

53 (C) Placement of individuals screened and assessed who are  
54 selected to participate in a training program, with an employer  
55 identified by the partnership, upon such individual's successful  
56 completion of the training program. Such identified employer shall  
57 commit to hire one or more individuals who successfully complete the  
58 training program and may further offer related on-the-job training or  
59 other in-house training opportunities to such individual or  
60 individuals. The partnership shall seek to leverage any such training or  
61 opportunities, apprenticeship programs, the Labor Department's  
62 subsidized training and employment program and other wage-subsidy  
63 programs with employers who commit to hiring individuals, and may  
64 seek program funding for retention services;

65 (4) (A) Separate training programs for participants (i) in the eleventh  
66 or twelfth grade, and (ii) eighteen years of age or older who are not  
67 currently enrolled in eleventh or twelfth grade. Such training  
68 programs shall be provided by partnership members or with the  
69 assistance of other parties as identified in the proposal;

70 (B) Training programs shall be not less than five consecutive weeks  
71 and not more than twenty-six consecutive weeks in duration. At least  
72 one training program offered for each age group shall be provided  
73 through a certified preapprenticeship program offered by the Labor  
74 Department. Any other training program may include a  
75 preapprenticeship component or award industry-recognized  
76 certificates, as proposed by the partnership;

77 (C) Training programs shall be developed and revised periodically  
78 through ongoing consultation with employers targeted for job  
79 placement of program participants;

80 (5) The duration of a work force pipeline program shall be not less  
81 than four years from the date of its establishment;

82 (6) For each core program component, the partnership shall identify  
83 specific existing resources available to such partnership through the  
84 regional work force development board, the United States Department  
85 of Labor's American Job Center system, the state Labor Department,  
86 employers, apprenticeship or other work force training programs,  
87 educational institutions in the state or other public or private funds. If  
88 the partnership proposes using program funds for the purposes of core  
89 program component, it shall demonstrate for each such component  
90 that there will be leveraged funding support from existing resources  
91 and that the use of program funds for such purposes will not affect the  
92 availability of such existing resources; and

93 (7) The following limits shall apply to the use of any program funds  
94 awarded to a partnership: (A) Not more than seventy per cent of such  
95 funds shall be used for the training programs set forth in subdivision  
96 (4) of this subsection; (B) not more than twenty per cent of such funds  
97 shall be used for supporting services for the program, including  
98 recruitment and outreach efforts, screening and assessment,  
99 transportation, stipends, workplace tools or equipment and  
100 preemployment supports; (C) not more than ten per cent of such funds  
101 shall be used for any other purpose, including administrative costs.

102 (d) (1) The commissioner shall review all qualifying responses to the  
103 request for qualifications and select as many proposals as the  
104 commissioner deems to be well planned and the partnership to be  
105 capable of implementing its proposal. The commissioner shall select  
106 proposals so as to achieve a goal of not fewer than ten thousand  
107 individuals placed into new jobs over the first four years of a program,

108 with one-third of such individuals from the group under  
109 subparagraph (A)(i) of subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of this section  
110 and two-thirds of such individuals from the group under  
111 subparagraph (A)(ii) of subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of this section.

112 (2) (A) The commissioner shall award funds to the partnerships  
113 selected under subdivision (1) of this subsection in proportion to the  
114 magnitude of the work force needs within the work force region  
115 proposed to be served, relative to the comparable work force needs  
116 within other work force regions of the state, provided no partnership  
117 shall receive more than twenty million dollars in total funding. The  
118 commissioner may further weight such distribution according to any  
119 total cost per program participant proposed by a partnership and that  
120 the commissioner deems reasonable, and may give preference to a  
121 partnership with a lower total cost per program participant.

122 (B) The commissioner shall reserve from any funds awarded under  
123 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision sufficient funds to support the  
124 use of the certified preapprenticeship program offered by the Labor  
125 Department and shall transfer such reserved funds to the appropriate  
126 departmental account to be used for such purpose.

127 (e) Any regional industry partnership may seek (1) to leverage  
128 tuition or financial assistance programs for purposes of the program  
129 and for the benefit of individuals participating in the program, and (2)  
130 philanthropic and employer investments to meet the goal set forth in  
131 subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this section and to support  
132 retention of individuals participating in the program.

133 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) For the purposes described in  
134 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have  
135 the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the  
136 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in  
137 the aggregate fifty million dollars.

138 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the

139 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the  
140 Labor Department for the purposes of funding work force pipeline  
141 programs selected pursuant to section 1 of this act.

142 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the  
143 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not  
144 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and  
145 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission  
146 pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money  
147 to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be  
148 issued in accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from  
149 time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times  
150 not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be  
151 provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State  
152 Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall  
153 be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission  
154 that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is  
155 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
156 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,  
157 in its discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this  
158 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and  
159 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the  
160 principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and  
161 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of  
162 such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual  
163 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State  
164 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become  
165 due.

166 Sec. 3. Section 32-235 of the 2018 supplement to the general statutes  
167 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
168 *1, 2018*):

169 (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the  
170 State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to

171 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and  
172 in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate one billion seven  
173 hundred fifty-five million three hundred thousand dollars, provided  
174 (1) one hundred forty million dollars of said authorization shall be  
175 effective July 1, 2011, and twenty million dollars of said authorization  
176 shall be made available for small business development; (2) two  
177 hundred eighty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective  
178 July 1, 2012, and forty million dollars of said authorization shall be  
179 made available for the Small Business Express program established  
180 pursuant to section 32-7g and not more than twenty million dollars of  
181 said authorization may be made available for businesses that commit  
182 to relocating one hundred or more jobs that are outside of the United  
183 States to the state; and (3) one hundred seventy-five million dollars of  
184 said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2018. Any amount of said  
185 authorizations that are made available for small business development  
186 or businesses that commit to relocating one hundred or more jobs that  
187 are outside of the United States to the state, but are not exhausted for  
188 such purpose by the first day of the fiscal year subsequent to the fiscal  
189 year in which such amount was made available, shall be used for the  
190 purposes described in subsection (b) of this section. For purposes of  
191 this subsection, a "small business" is one employing not more than one  
192 hundred employees.

193 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the  
194 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the  
195 Department of Economic and Community Development;

196 (1) [~~for~~] For the purposes of sections 32-220 to 32-234, inclusive,  
197 including economic cluster-related programs and activities, and for the  
198 Connecticut job training finance demonstration program pursuant to  
199 sections 32-23uu and 32-23vv, provided:

200 (A) [~~three~~] Three million dollars shall be used by said department  
201 solely for the purposes of section 32-23uu and not more than five  
202 million two hundred fifty thousand dollars of the amount stated in

203 said subsection (a) may be used by said department for the purposes of  
204 section 31-3u; [.]

205 (B) [not] Not less than one million dollars shall be used for an  
206 educational technology grant to the deployment center program and  
207 the nonprofit business consortium deployment center approved  
208 pursuant to section 32-41l; [.]

209 (C) [not] Not less than two million dollars shall be used by said  
210 department for the establishment of a pilot program to make grants to  
211 businesses in designated areas of the state for construction, renovation  
212 or improvement of small manufacturing facilities, provided such  
213 grants are matched by the business, a municipality or another  
214 financing entity. The Commissioner of Economic and Community  
215 Development shall designate areas of the state where manufacturing is  
216 a substantial part of the local economy and shall make grants under  
217 such pilot program which are likely to produce a significant economic  
218 development benefit for the designated area; [.]

219 (D) [five] Five million dollars may be used by said department for  
220 the manufacturing competitiveness grants program; [.]

221 (E) [one] One million dollars shall be used by said department for  
222 the purpose of a grant to the Connecticut Center for Advanced  
223 Technology, for the purposes of subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of  
224 section 32-7f; [.]

225 (F) [fifty] Fifty million dollars shall be used by said department for  
226 the purpose of grants to the United States Department of the Navy, the  
227 United States Department of Defense or eligible applicants for projects  
228 related to the enhancement of infrastructure for long-term, on-going  
229 naval operations at the United States Naval Submarine Base-New  
230 London, located in Groton, which will increase the military value of  
231 said base. Such projects shall not be subject to the provisions of  
232 sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a; [.]



233 (G) [~~two~~] Two million dollars shall be used by said department for  
234 the purpose of a grant to the Connecticut Center for Advanced  
235 Technology, Inc., for manufacturing initiatives, including aerospace  
236 and defense; [~~], and~~]

237 (H) [~~four~~] Four million dollars shall be used by said department for  
238 the purpose of a grant to companies adversely impacted by the  
239 construction at the Quinnipiac Bridge, where such grant may be used  
240 to offset the increase in costs of commercial overland transportation of  
241 goods or materials brought to the port of New Haven by ship or vessel;  
242 [~~]~~ and

243 (I) One hundred million dollars shall be used by said department  
244 for the purpose of grants to a company that (i) is engaged in the  
245 design, construction and lifecycle support of submarines for the United  
246 States Navy, (ii) has a production facility and an engineering office in  
247 the state prior to July 1, 2018, (iii) plans to expand production of  
248 submarines in response to increased demand from the United States  
249 Navy, and (iv) has a parent company that is engaged in the aerospace  
250 and defense industry. Such grants may be used for (I) acquisition of  
251 lands, buildings, machinery, equipment or any combination thereof,  
252 (II) site and infrastructure improvements, and (III) planning costs;

253 (2) [~~for~~] For the purposes of the small business assistance program  
254 established pursuant to section 32-9yy, provided fifteen million dollars  
255 shall be deposited in the small business assistance account established  
256 pursuant to said section 32-9yy; [~~]~~

257 (3) [~~to~~] To deposit twenty million dollars in the small business  
258 express assistance account established pursuant to section 32-7h; [~~]~~

259 (4) [~~to~~] To deposit four million nine hundred thousand dollars per  
260 year in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2019,  
261 inclusive, and June 30, 2021, and nine million nine hundred thousand  
262 dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, in the CTNext Fund  
263 established pursuant to section 32-39i, which shall be used by CTNext

264 to provide grants-in-aid to designated innovation places, as defined in  
265 section 32-39j, planning grants-in-aid pursuant to section 32-39l, and  
266 grants-in-aid for projects that network innovation places pursuant to  
267 subsection (b) of section 32-39m, provided not more than three million  
268 dollars be used for grants-in-aid for such projects; [.]

269 (5) [to] To deposit two million dollars per year in each of the fiscal  
270 years ending June 30, 2019, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, in the CTNext  
271 Fund established pursuant to section 32-39i, which shall be used by  
272 CTNext for the purpose of providing higher education  
273 entrepreneurship grants-in-aid pursuant to section 32-39g; [.]

274 (6) [for] For the purpose of funding the costs of the Technology  
275 Talent Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 32-7p,  
276 provided two million dollars per year in each of the fiscal years ending  
277 June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, shall be used for such  
278 purpose; [.]

279 (7) [to] To provide (A) a grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Supplier  
280 Connection in an amount equal to two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
281 in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021,  
282 inclusive, and (B) a grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Procurement  
283 Technical Assistance Program in an amount equal to three hundred  
284 thousand dollars in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to  
285 June 30, 2021, inclusive; [.] and

286 (8) [to] To deposit four hundred fifty thousand dollars per year, in  
287 each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive,  
288 in the CTNext Fund established pursuant to section 32-39i, which shall  
289 be used by CTNext to provide four hundred fifty thousand dollars in  
290 each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive,  
291 for the purposes of growth grants-in-aid pursuant to section 32-39g.

292 (c) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or  
293 power granted thereby which are not inconsistent with the provisions  
294 of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds

295 authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and  
296 temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the  
297 sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with  
298 said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall  
299 mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their  
300 respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or  
301 resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds.  
302 None of said bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the  
303 State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for  
304 such authorization, which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of  
305 the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and  
306 conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Said  
307 bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the  
308 state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are  
309 pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds  
310 as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of  
311 the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts  
312 necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is  
313 hereby made, and the Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest  
314 as the same become due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	32-235

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) establish the Apprenticeship Connecticut initiative to develop work force pipeline programs and provide bond funding for such programs, and (2) dedicate economic development and manufacturing bonds for capital improvements to a facility located in the state that is engaged in the design, construction and lifecycle support of submarines for the United States Navy.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*