

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-51

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING AND EXPANSION OF CERTAIN
Title: MANUFACTURING PROGRAM PIPELINES.

Vote Date: 3/15/2018

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and

Vote Action: Bonding

PH Date: 3/6/2018

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following Joint Favorable Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Senator Mae Flexer, 29th Senatorial District.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut has over 4,000 manufacturing companies, but not enough workers to fill all the jobs available.

Substitute language:

- Uses modified concept from HB 5338
- Line 12: requires BOR, rather than OHE, to administer the program
- Lines 31-44: changes the way DRS must calculate segregated income tax funds and the data DRS must rely upon

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Kevin Lembo, Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller](#)

Comptroller Lembo submitted written testimony in support of this bill stating that there are many businesses ready to hire, but there are not enough qualified candidates to fill all the positions. He went on to say that an apprenticeship is an excellent way to begin a new career with a well-paying middle class job. Comptroller Lembo offered that the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Labor are existing resources that can be used to reach the goals of this bill “without creating additional levels of state bureaucracy, and while maximizing investment of taxpayer dollars.”

[Scott Jackson, Commissioner, Department of Labor](#)

Commissioner Jackson testified that the Department of Labor supports the concept of this bill, but the Bond Commission has not “authorized the Workforce Training Authority fund, and they do not have the information required to conduct the assessment.”

[Sean Bradbury, Director of Government Relations, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities](#)

Mr. Bradbury submitted written testimony indicating that the CSCU staff and faculty are happy to work with state agencies regarding the focus of sections 2 and 3 of the bill, but that they have concerns about section 1 of the bill. In particular the requested study around participation in the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange (MLDE) coordinated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) which would duplicate work that agency staff have already done. He went on to state that “no other New England states have joined the MLDE. Without the full participation of MA and NY, the MLDE would hold very little value to CT.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[John Beauregard, President/CEO of the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board](#)

Mr. Beauregard submitted written testimony in support sharing “I can tell you from experience that the manufacturing pipeline model works.” The Board has over 800 job placements in the first 2 years with an average salary of \$37,000. His testimony continues that “each manufacturing job results in approximately 1.55 additional jobs throughout the economy.” “. . . the Pipeline has actually created more than 2,000 jobs to date, resulting in approximately \$60 million in annual wages. An economist recently conducted an analysis for EWIB that showed that these 2,000 workers produce roughly \$1.7 million in additional State income tax revenue each year. These returns grow and compound over time: economic projections show that a 3-year, sustainability investment in the current pipeline model would produce \$6 million in additional State tax revenue.”

[Andrea Comer, Vice President, Workforce Strategies, Connecticut Business and Industry Association](#)

Ms. Comer testified that there are currently 13,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs in Connecticut and that this bill will help close that gap.

[David Downes, Program Administrator, Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education](#)

Mr. Downes submitted written testimony “Decisions about which skill areas and job sectors should be targeted need to rely not just on employment data but equally on employer input and direction.” His testimony also stated that the decision making should be regionally based.

[Ray Rossomando, Director of Policy, Research, and Government Relations, Connecticut Education Association](#)

Mr. Rossomando submitted written testimony: “With an eye toward future economic needs of the state, SB 51 seeks to align the K-12 curriculum with the requirements of Connecticut’s institutions of higher education. As the committee works toward refining language, we suggest that members also review the work done by the High School Graduation Task Force

(PA 15-5 JSS), and subsequent changes to state high school graduation requirements (PA 17-42)

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by: Jeanie Phillips, Clerk

Date: March 20, 2018