
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 356

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT APPRENTICESHIP AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

SUMMARY

This bill modifies the education commissioner's committee to coordinate education for public school students on manufacturing careers by:

1. renaming the committee the "Connecticut Apprenticeship and Education Committee;"
2. broadening the committee's scope to include additional fields, including insurance, health care, financial technology, biotechnology, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), construction trades, hospitality industries, and other appropriate industries;
3. modifying the committee's membership; and
4. modifying the information included in the committee's required annual report and extending the first reporting date to July 1, 2020.

The bill makes corresponding changes to statutes requiring the (1) education commissioner to introduce students to careers in manufacturing and (2) State Department of Education (SDE) to produce a best practices guide for school districts.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE DUTIES

Current law requires the committee to coordinate the education of

middle school and high school students on careers in manufacturing. The bill instead requires the committee to coordinate and identify (1) potential preapprenticeship and apprenticeship training program integration and (2) leveraged funding for career technical education programs in high schools and higher education institutions for careers in various industries.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Under current law, committee membership includes, but is not limited to:

1. representatives from the economic and community development and labor departments, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Technical Education and Career System, regional community-technical colleges' advanced manufacturing centers, independent higher education institutions that offer manufacturing training, Connecticut Employment and Training Commission, and manufacturing companies and employee organizations that represent manufacturing workers, and
2. middle and high school teachers, guidance counselors, and school counselors.

The bill adds to the committee membership (1) a representative from the Connecticut Manufacturers Collaborative; (2) school principals and superintendents; and (3) representatives of all companies, instead of only manufacturing companies, that represent manufacturing workers.

ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Current law requires the committee to (1) consult with the manufacturing industry to annually report on whether current manufacturing programs are meeting workforce needs and (2) submit its report to the Commerce and Higher Education and Workforce Advancement committees by February 1 each year.

The bill requires the committee to instead annually report on whether the state's apprenticeship training programs are meeting

residents' needs. When producing the report, the committee must:

1. coordinate and identify potential modern preapprenticeship and apprenticeship training programs;
2. review and consider European apprenticeship training programs; and
3. consult with members of the insurance, health care, financial technology, biotechnology, STEM, construction trades, hospitality industries, and other appropriate industries, in addition to the manufacturing representatives.

The bill extends the committee's first annual reporting date to July 1, 2020, and requires it to submit the report to the Labor and Public Employees Committee in addition to the two committees mentioned above. Under current law the annual deadline was February 1.

COMMISSIONER DUTIES

The bill requires the education commissioner, in consultation with the committee, to introduce public school students to careers in all the above listed industries, instead of only manufacturing, as under current law.

The bill eliminates the current requirement for the commissioner to develop and administer a program to introduce middle and high school students, their parents or guardians, and guidance and school counselors to careers in manufacturing. It instead requires the commissioner to introduce the students, parents, and others to careers in all the above listed industries.

BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

Current law requires SDE, in consultation with the manufacturing industry and the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, to develop a best practices guide to help local and regional boards of education incorporate relationships with manufacturing in their middle school and high school curricula. The bill instead requires the guide to include all the industries mentioned above.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/14/2019)