
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 855

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF MANUFACTURING.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a manufacturing director position, within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), to work with the state's manufacturing community in furthering the industry's growth and coordinating the efforts of public, private, and nonprofit sector stakeholders.

The bill requires the DECD commissioner, in consultation with a statewide manufacturing collaborative, to appoint a director who has at least 10 years of manufacturing industry experience, a financial management background, and a familiarity with state manufacturing assistance programs. The director must, by October 1, 2020, report to the governor and Commerce Committee on plans for, and progress in, addressing five specified priority areas (i.e., workforce development, technology, funding, regulations, and promotion).

The bill also establishes the "director of manufacturing account" as a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account and authorizes the director to use the account funds for the bill's purposes. The account may contain (1) any funds required or allowed to be deposited in it; (2) private donations; and (3) any local, state, or federal funds received, as the law allows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019, except that the account is effective July 1, 2019.

MANUFACTURING DIRECTOR'S DUTIES

The bill charges the manufacturing director with:

1. defining strategic goals and objectives for advancing

manufacturing growth;

2. ensuring that state and federal investments to advance manufacturing align with these goals and objectives;
3. improving statewide coordination, collaboration, and partnership among public, private, and nonprofit entities; and
4. establishing systems for regularly measuring the effectiveness of investments that are achieving measurable objectives and recommending any necessary changes.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The bill requires the director’s report to the legislature to indicate his or her plans for, and progress in achieving, the priorities detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Specified Priorities for October 1, 2020, Report

Topic Area	Specified Priorities
Workforce Development	<p>Develop initiatives for promoting manufacturing careers in public schools and local communities</p> <p>Increase traditional and technical high schools’ capacity to provide comprehensive technical education</p> <p>Coordinate integration of manufacturing curricula in middle and high schools, communities colleges, four-year colleges, and graduate level manufacturing-related education programs</p> <p>Expand the state’s capacity to address immediate manufacturing workforce needs through greater regional partnerships and expanded strategic workforce pipeline initiatives</p>
Technology	<p>Establish an Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortium to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. create a communications network for technology resource providers and manufacturers, 2. increase manufacturers’ awareness of the importance of technology innovation to their long-term success, and 3. increase awareness of and accessibility to planning, testing,

	financing, and other assistance for advancing technology innovation in the industry
Funding	Evaluate state-funded manufacturing programs and recommend any necessary changes to meet strategic objectives that are consistent with manufacturers' needs
Regulations	Establish a Regulatory Improvement Team to evaluate whether regulations are clear, narrowly constructed to meet legitimate needs, consistently applied, and meet other measures detailed in the regulatory transparency and efficiency provisions of Governor Malloy's Executive Order No. 37 (among other things, the executive order establishes procedures agencies must follow before repealing or modifying existing regulations, including identifying best practices and "employing the least burdensome means available to achieve regulatory objectives")
Promotion	Assist manufacturers, state agencies, and other relevant entities with promoting the state's manufacturers' products and services

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/19/2019)