

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6887

AN ACT CONCERNING APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH-

**Title:** GROWTH, HIGH-DEMAND JOBS.

**Vote Date:** 3/14/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/5/2019

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Miller P., 145<sup>th</sup> Dist.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

Substitute language for the bill has been made in lines 4-9, clarifying that the task force will focus on high-demand industries, rather than high-demand jobs, and removes examples of fields of finance, computer science, engineering, health care, insurance, and biomedicine. Line 12 requires the task force to study existing apprenticeship programs in Connecticut, rather than Colorado and Georgia, and national best practices. Changes were made to lines 29- 80 regarding some task force members.

This bill is to assess the practicality of forming a public-private partnership for high school apprenticeship programs, with the ultimate goal of introducing more high school students to high-demand, high-growth jobs, ensuring their success in these programs, and building a qualified future workforce.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed for House Bill No. 6887

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Patricia Billie Miller, State Representative, 145th District, Connecticut General Assembly](#): Representative Miller testified in support of HB 6887, but believes there is room for improvement in the language. She stated that there must be changes made in order to include representatives from Connecticut's community college system in the task force, since they "have a unique perspective on student needs, and skill set strengths and gaps."

**Subira Gordon, Executive Director, Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now:** Subira Gordon testified in favor of HB 6887, but recommends that there should be more representatives included in the task force. “These would include trade associations, community colleges, and regional workforce investment boards. Members of each of these communities would have valuable insights in establishing the direction of the task force.”

**David Krechevsky, Director of Public Policy, Waterbury Regional Chamber:** David Krechevsky testified in support of HB 6887, but suggests modifications to the bill that would include task force members representing the state Department of Labor and a Regional Workforce Investment Board. They specifically deal with businesses that utilize apprenticeships and would be able to provide valuable insight to the task force.

**Sal Luciano, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO:** Sal Luciano supports the bill, but asks for the re-working of the compositions of the task force to be more inclusive. Mr. Luciano suggests including the Department of Labor’s Apprenticeship Manager and the Connecticut Building Trades. He also states that the study established by HB 6887 is work that is already being performed by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, combined with the Departments of Labor, Education, and Higher Education. However, the bill does not include representation from any of these agencies in the task force, agencies that could provide valuable input.

**Shannon Marimon, Executive Director, Connecticut Council for Education Reform:** While in support of the efforts of this bill, Shannon Marimon believes that the focus of the task force should not solely be on apprenticeship opportunities. The Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER) suggests a statewide Industry/Education Advisory Council. “This Council would be charged with looking at the larger umbrella of career pathways programs, which include early college, dual-enrollment programs, internships, mentorship programs, pre-apprenticeships, and new programming not yet defined.” Ms. Marimon also suggests the establishment of Career Cluster Advisory Subcommittees “to ensure the standardization of career clusters are informed by the business sector in collaboration with educators” as well as the establishment of “an indicator in Connecticut’s Next Generation Accountability System that assesses district/ school performance on the ‘career readiness’ of students.”

**Lynn Raicik, Associate Director of Education and Workforce Development, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.:** Lynn Raicik testified on behalf of the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT) in support of HB 6887, but suggests the inclusion of the chief executive officer of CCAT in the bill’s task force, as it could be a great asset to the success of the study.

**Michelle Rakebrand, Assistant Counsel, Connecticut Business and Industry Association:** Michelle Rakebrand testified on behalf of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) in support of HB 6887, stating that apprenticeship programs organically create a job pipeline for young students while giving them important skills training and the option of an alternative to a four-year college degree.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Ed Leavy, President, State Vocational Federation of Teachers:** While supportive of the intent of the bill, Ed Leavy states that he has no choice but to oppose the bill itself due to its

lack of details. “The make-up of the task force is not indicated. The types of partnerships being sought is not identified. There is no mention in the bill of the role public schools will play in the partnership. The bill, however well intentioned, is an empty vessel with no direction of how it will be filled.”

**Reported by: Beatrice O’Neil**

**Date: 03/29/2019**