General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 968
January Session, 2019

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY TO MACHINISTS PROGRAM FOR VETERANS.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2019) (a) As used in this section:

1. "Advanced manufacturing" means a manufacturing process that makes extensive use of computer, high-precision or information technologies integrated with a high-performance workforce in a production system capable of furnishing a heterogeneous mix of products in small or large volumes with either the efficiency of mass production or the flexibility of custom manufacturing in order to respond quickly to customer demands. "Advanced manufacturing" includes new ways to manufacture existing products and the manufacture of new products emerging from new advanced technologies;

2. "Public institution of higher education" means the institutions of higher education identified in subdivision (2) of section 10a-1 of the general statutes;

3. "Qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program" means a for-credit or noncredit sub-baccalaureate advanced manufacturing certificate program offered by a public institution of higher education in which at least seventy-five per cent of the graduates of such
certificate program are employed in a field related to or requiring such certificate in the year following such students' graduation;

(4) "Department" means the Labor Department;

(5) "Program" means the Military to Machinists program established under subsection (b) of this section;

(6) "Veteran" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes; and

(7) "Eligible business" means a business that (A) has operations in Connecticut, (B) has been registered to conduct business for not less than twelve months, and (C) is in good standing with the payment of all state and local taxes. "Eligible business" does not include the state or any political subdivision thereof.

(b) There is established within the Labor Department a Military to Machinists program for veterans. The program shall, within existing resources of the department, provide assistance to any veteran in (1) earning an advanced manufacturing certificate from a qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program of a public institution of higher education, and (2) securing employment in the field of advanced manufacturing with any eligible business. The assistance described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be provided to any veteran only if such veteran first obtains an advanced manufacturing certificate from a qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program of a public institution of higher education.

(c) (1) The Labor Commissioner shall designate employees of the department's Office for Veterans Workforce Development to act as liaisons, in a number deemed appropriate by the commissioner, and each liaison shall provide the assistance described in subsection (b) of this section to any veteran on behalf of the program.

(2) In connection with providing the assistance described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, each liaison designated
pursuant to this subsection shall also assist any veteran to obtain funding for the cost of attendance at a public institution of higher education's qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program. Such funding may include (A) tuition waivers under sections 10a-77 and 10a-99 of the general statutes, and (B) expenditures from the Workforce Training Authority Fund under section 31-11jj of the general statutes.

(3) In connection with providing the assistance described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, each liaison designated pursuant to this subsection shall also help any eligible business apply for (A) a grant under section 31-3uu of the general statutes, and (B) tax credits under section 12-217g of the general statutes, if applicable.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Labor Department shall, within existing resources of the department, develop or approve, in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Economic and Community Development, an informational campaign to distribute to qualified veterans' charitable organizations, as described in subsection (b) of section 27-100f of the general statutes, and Operation Academic Support for Incoming Service Members centers. The informational campaign shall include a description of the program and shall address the various opportunities and benefits that the program may provide for veterans in this state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>October 1, 2019</th>
<th>New section</th>
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VA Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

APP Joint Favorable