OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 685

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT APPRENTICESHIP AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

SUMMARY

Current law requires the Department of Education (SDE) commissioner, in collaboration with the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR), to establish a committee to coordinate middle school and high school education concerning manufacturing careers (i.e., the Connecticut Manufacturing Committee). This bill renames the committee as the Connecticut Apprenticeship and Education Committee and instead requires it to identify opportunities for integrating preapprenticeship and apprenticeship training programs in the curricula of (1) technical education and career schools and (2) middle and high schools.

The bill adds to the committee’s membership and broadens the scope of the committee’s work to include (in addition to manufacturing) insurance, health care, science, technology (e.g., financial technology and biotechnology), engineering, mathematics, construction trades, and hospitality industries. It correspondingly broadens requirements that the SDE commissioner (1) consult with the committee to introduce students to careers and (2) develop a best practices guide to help school boards incorporate into their curricula relationships with various fields.

Beginning July 1, 2020, the bill aligns the committee’s annual report to its duties under the bill and expands the entities to which it reports.

The bill eliminates the requirement that the committee compile a catalog of programs at higher educational institutions in the state that offer training in manufacturing. It instead requires the committee to consult with members of the industries listed above and evaluate,
identify, and review certain training programs.

The bill also directs SDE to develop a best practices guide to help school boards to meet requirements specified in the bill, rather than manufacturing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The bill adds to the committee the following members (1) representatives from the Connecticut Manufacturers Collaborative, (2) school teachers (rather than only middle and high school teachers in current law), and (3) school principals and superintendents.

COMMITTEE DUTIES AND CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Evaluation and Review of Training Programs

The bill retains a requirement in current law that the committee evaluate whether existing preapprenticeship programs and apprenticeship training programs available to state residents meet workforce needs. The bill additionally requires the committee to consult with members of the industries listed above to identify and review alternative preapprenticeship and apprenticeship training programs, including European programs.

Reporting Requirement

Current law requires the committee to report on an analysis of whether current workforce development programs meet workforce needs. Beginning July 1, 2020, the bill instead requires the committee to report on its evaluation of existing programs and identification and review of alternative programs. By law, the committee must report annually to the Commerce and Higher Education committees. The bill additionally requires it to report to the Labor Committee.

Introducing Students to Careers

Current law requires the Education Commissioner to consult with the committee to develop and administer a program to introduce middle school and high school students, their parents or guardians,
guidance counselors and school counselors to careers in manufacturing. The bill instead requires the commissioner to consult with the committee to introduce the same students, parents, and counselors to careers in the industries listed above. The bill retains an authorization in current law allowing the commissioner to enter into partnerships with private sector entities to fulfill this objective. It eliminates provisions that describe elements the program or partnerships can include.

**Best Practices Guide**

The bill requires the Education Commissioner to develop a best practices guide to help local and regional school boards incorporate relationships in their middle and high school curricula with industries listed in the bill, rather than only manufacturing as under current law. The bill requires her to consult with representatives from the industries listed above rather than only manufacturing and eliminates the requirement that she consult with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 22  Nay 0  (03/14/2019)