



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 679

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 881

Senate, May 12, 2021

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. MCCRORY, D. of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-124w of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) There shall be within the [Labor Department an Office of
4 Workforce Competitiveness] Department of Economic and Community
5 Development, for administrative purposes only, an Office of Workforce
6 Strategy.

7 (b) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall be under the direction of
8 the Chief Workforce Officer, who shall report directly to the Governor.
9 The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly, shall appoint
10 a person with knowledge of public sector workforce training programs
11 to the position of Chief Workforce Officer. Such person shall be qualified
12 by training and experience to perform the duties of the office as set forth
13 in this section. The [Labor Commissioner shall, with the assistance of the
14 Office of Workforce Competitiveness] Chief Workforce Officer shall:

15 (1) Be the [Governor's principal workforce development policy
16 advisor;] principal advisor for workforce development policy, strategy
17 and coordination to the Governor;

18 (2) Be the lead state official for the development of employment and
19 training strategies and initiatives;

20 (3) Be the chairperson of the Workforce Cabinet, which shall consist
21 of agencies involved with employment and training, as identified by the
22 Governor pursuant to section 31-3m. The Workforce Cabinet shall meet
23 at the direction of the Governor or the Chief Workforce Officer;

24 [(2)] (4) Be the liaison between the Governor, the Governor's
25 Workforce Council, established pursuant to section 31-3h, as amended
26 by this act, and any local, regional, state or federal organizations and
27 entities with respect to workforce development [matters] policy,
28 strategy and coordination, including, but not limited to, implementation
29 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128,
30 as [from time to time] amended from time to time;

31 [(3)] Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state
32 agencies;

33 (5) Develop, and update as necessary, a state workforce strategy in
34 consultation with the Governor's Workforce Council and the Workforce
35 Cabinet and subject to the approval of the Governor;

36 [(4)] (6) Coordinate [the state's implementation of the federal
37 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
38 from time to time amended, and advise and assist the Governor with
39 matters related to said act;] and align each workforce development
40 activity funded by the state through funds received pursuant to the
41 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
42 amended from time to time, or state grant programs that are
43 administered by or in collaboration with any state agency for the
44 purpose of furthering the goals and outcomes of the state workforce
45 strategy approved by the Governor pursuant to subdivision (5) of this

46 subsection and the workforce development plan developed by the
47 Governor's Workforce Council pursuant to the provisions of section 31-
48 11p, as amended by this act;

49 (7) Collaborate with the regional workforce development boards to
50 adapt the best practices for workforce development established by such
51 boards for statewide implementation, if possible;

52 (8) Coordinate measurement and evaluation of outcomes across
53 education and workforce development programs, in conjunction with
54 state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Labor Department, the
55 Department of Education and the Office of Policy and Management;

56 (9) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, review any
57 state plan for each program set forth in Section 103(b) of the Workforce
58 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from
59 time to time, before such plan is submitted to the Governor;

60 ~~[(5)]~~ (10) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
61 involvement of members of the public, the legislature and local officials
62 in workforce development [matters, including implementation of the
63 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
64 from time to time amended] policy, strategy and coordination;

65 ~~[(6) Enter]~~ (11) In conjunction with one or more state agencies enter
66 into such contractual agreements, in accordance with established
67 procedures and the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
68 Management, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
69 section;

70 (12) Market and communicate the state workforce strategy to ensure
71 maximum engagement with students, trainees, job seekers and
72 businesses while effectively elevating the state's workforce profile
73 nationally;

74 (13) For the purposes of subsection (a) of section 10-21c, as amended
75 by this act, identify subject areas, courses, curriculum, content and
76 programs that may be offered to students in elementary and high school

77 in order to improve student outcomes and meet the workforce needs of
78 the state;

79 (14) Issue guidance to state agencies, the Governor's Workforce
80 Council and regional workforce development boards in furtherance of
81 the state workforce strategy. Such guidance shall be in compliance with
82 state and federal laws, approved by the Secretary of the Office of Policy
83 and Management and take effect not less than fourteen days from such
84 approval. The Chief Workforce Officer shall consult on the
85 implementation of any guidance with the agency, council or board
86 impacted by such guidance;

87 (15) Coordinate, in consultation with the Labor Department, with
88 regional workforce development boards and community action
89 agencies to ensure compliance with state and federal laws for the
90 purpose of furthering the service capabilities of programs offered
91 pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, P.L. 113-
92 128, as amended from time to time, and the United States Department
93 of Labor's American Job Center system; and

94 ~~[(7)]~~ (16) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions
95 of this section. [~~]; and]~~

96 [(8) Not later than October 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, submit a
97 report, with the assistance of the Labor Department, to the Governor
98 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
99 cognizance of matters relating to education, economic development,
100 labor and higher education and employment advancement specifying a
101 forecasted assessment by the Labor Department of workforce shortages
102 in occupations in this state for the succeeding two and five-year periods.
103 The report shall also include recommendations concerning (A) methods
104 to generate a sufficient number of workers to meet identified workforce
105 needs, including, but not limited to, scholarship, school-to-career and
106 internship programs, and (B) methods secondary and higher education
107 and private industry can use to address identified workforce needs.

108 (c) The Labor Department shall be the lead state agency for the

109 development of employment and training strategies and initiatives
110 required to support the state's position in the knowledge economy.]

111 (c) The [Labor Commissioner, with the assistance of the Office of
112 Workforce Competitiveness,] Chief Workforce Officer may call upon
113 any office, department, board, commission, public institution of higher
114 education or other agency of the state to supply such reports,
115 information, data and assistance as may be reasonable, necessary [or]
116 and appropriate in order to carry out [its] the Chief Workforce Officer's
117 or the Office of Workforce Strategy's duties and requirements. Each
118 officer or employee of such office, department, board, commission,
119 public institution of higher education or other agency of the state [is
120 authorized and directed to cooperate with the Labor Commissioner and
121 to] shall furnish such reports, information, data and assistance [.] as
122 requested by the Chief Workforce Officer, to the extent permitted under
123 state and federal law. Any request for data from a participating agency
124 in CP20 WIN, established pursuant to section 10a-57g, shall be
125 submitted through CP20 WIN in accordance with the policies and
126 procedures established by CP20 WIN.

127 (d) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall provide staff to the
128 Governor's Workforce Council and such other resources as the Chief
129 Workforce Officer can make available, and shall coordinate all necessary
130 support that other state agencies make available, as needed by the
131 Governor's Workforce Council.

132 (e) The Chief Workforce Officer, on behalf of the Governor and the
133 Governor's Workforce Council and in consultation with the Labor
134 Commissioner, shall coordinate the state plan, budget and
135 implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
136 Act, P.L. 113-128, as amended from time to time, and may issue
137 guidance to this effect. The Labor Commissioner shall offer such
138 resources as the commissioner can make available for such purpose.

139 (f) Not later than October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Chief
140 Workforce Officer shall submit to the Governor and, in accordance with
141 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the

142 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
143 education and employment advancement, education, commerce and
144 labor and public employees, a report regarding workforce development
145 in the state. Such report shall include but not be limited to, any programs
146 undertaken by the Office of Workforce Strategy, information on the
147 number of individuals served by such programs, demographic
148 information about such individuals and outcomes of such individuals
149 after completion of a workforce development program.

150 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) There is established an account
151 to be known as the "CareerConneCT account" which shall be a separate,
152 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain
153 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in
154 the account shall be expended by Department of Economic and
155 Community Development for the purposes of funding workforce
156 training programs recommended by the Office of Workforce Strategy.
157 The Chief Workforce Officer, in coordination with the Labor
158 Commissioner and the regional workforce development boards, shall
159 ensure that, to the extent possible, participants in a workforce training
160 program funded through the CareerConneCT account also enroll in any
161 federally funded workforce development program.

162 (b) Not later than October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter until
163 October 1, 2024, the Chief Workforce Officer shall submit to the
164 Governor and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
165 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
166 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
167 and employment advancement, education, commerce and labor and
168 public employees a report regarding the workforce training programs
169 funded through the CareerConneCT account. Such report shall include
170 but not be limited to, information on the number of individuals served,
171 demographic information about such individuals and outcomes of such
172 individuals after completion of a workforce training program.

173 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section and
174 sections 4, 7, 14 and 15 of this act:

175 (1) "Credential" means a documented award issued by an authorized
176 body, including, but not limited to, a (A) degree or certificate awarded
177 by an institution of higher education, private occupational school or
178 provider of an alternate route to certification program approved by the
179 State Board of Education for teachers, (B) certification awarded through
180 an examination process designed to demonstrate acquisition of
181 designated knowledge, skill and ability to perform a specific job, (C)
182 license issued by a governmental agency which permits an individual
183 to practice a specific occupation upon verification that such individual
184 meets a predetermined list of qualifications, and (D) documented
185 completion of an apprenticeship or job training program; and

186 (2) "Credential status type" means the official status of a credential
187 which is either active, deprecated, probationary or superseded.

188 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the executive director of the Office
189 of Higher Education, in consultation with the advisory council
190 established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall create a
191 database of credentials offered in the state for the purpose of explaining
192 the skills and competencies earned through a credential in uniform
193 terms and plain language. In creating the database, the executive
194 director shall utilize the minimum data policy of the New England
195 Board of Higher Education's High Value Credentials for New England
196 initiative, the uniform terms and descriptions of Credentials Engine's
197 Credential Transparency Description Language and the uniform
198 standards for comparing and linking credentials in Credential Engine's
199 Credential Transparency Description Language-Achievement
200 Standards Network. At a minimum, the database shall include the
201 following data for each credential: (1) Credential status type, (2) the
202 entity that owns or offers the credential, (3) the type of credential being
203 offered, (4) a short description of the credential, (5) the name of the
204 credential, (6) the Internet web site that provides information relating to
205 the credential, (7) the language in which the credential is offered, (8) the
206 estimated duration for completion, (9) the industry related to the
207 credential which may include its code under the North American
208 Industry Classification System, (10) the occupation related to the

209 credential which may include its code under the standard occupational
210 classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United
211 States Department of Labor or under The Occupational Information
212 Network, (11) the estimated cost for earning the credential, and (12) a
213 listing of online or physical locations where the credential is offered.

214 (c) There is established an advisory council for the purpose of
215 advising the executive director of the Office of Higher Education on the
216 implementation of the database created pursuant to subsection (b) of
217 this section. The advisory council shall consist of representatives from
218 the Office of Workforce Strategy established pursuant to section 4-124w
219 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, Office of Higher
220 Education, Office of Policy and Management, Labor Department,
221 Department of Education, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
222 The University of Connecticut and independent institutions of higher
223 education and shall include the Chief Data Officer. The Chief Workforce
224 Officer, the Chief Data Officer and the executive director of the Office of
225 Higher Education, or their designees, shall be cochairpersons of the
226 advisory council and shall make any necessary appointments to the
227 advisory council and schedule the meetings of the advisory council.

228 (d) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, each
229 institution of higher education, private occupational school, provider of
230 an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board
231 of Education and provider of a training program listed on the Labor
232 Department's Eligible Training Provider List shall submit information,
233 in the form and manner prescribed by the executive director of the
234 Office of Higher Education, about any credential offered by such
235 institution, school or provider for inclusion in the database created
236 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Such information shall
237 include, but need not be limited to, the data described in subdivisions
238 (1) to (12), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, except an
239 institution of higher education may omit the data required pursuant to
240 subdivisions (9) and (10) of subsection (b) of this section if such data is
241 not applicable to a credential offered by such institution.

242 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any state
243 agency or department to submit credential information to the database
244 created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

245 (f) The Labor Department may, in consultation with the advisory
246 council established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, require any
247 program sponsor of a preapprenticeship or apprenticeship program
248 registered with the department to submit information about such
249 program to the Office of Higher Education for inclusion in such
250 database.

251 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The Office of Workforce
252 Strategy, established pursuant to section 4-124w of the general statutes,
253 as amended by this act, shall establish standards for designating certain
254 credentials as credentials of value. Such standards may include, but
255 need not be limited to, meeting the workforce needs of employers in the
256 state, enrollment rates, completion rates, net cost, whether the credential
257 transfers to or stacks onto another credential of value, duration until
258 completion, types of employment opportunities available upon
259 completion and earnings upon completion.

260 (b) The office shall compile, and annually update, a list of credentials
261 designated as credentials of value, and include such list in the database
262 established pursuant to section 3 of this act.

263 Sec. 5. Subsection (l) of section 10a-34 of the general statutes is
264 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
265 *2021*):

266 (l) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (j), inclusive,
267 of this section and subject to the authority of the State Board of
268 Education to regulate teacher education programs, up to twelve new
269 programs of higher learning in any academic year and any program
270 modifications proposed by an independent institution of higher
271 education, as defined in section 10a-173, shall not be subject to approval
272 by the Office of Higher Education, provided (1) the institution maintains
273 eligibility to participate in financial aid programs governed by Title IV,

274 Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended from time to
275 time, (2) the United States Department of Education has not determined
276 that the institution has a financial responsibility score that is less than
277 1.5 for the most recent fiscal year for which the data necessary for
278 determining the score is available, and (3) the institution has been
279 located in the state and accredited as a degree-granting institution in
280 good standing for ten years or more by a regional accrediting association
281 recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of
282 Education and maintains such accreditation status. Each institution that
283 is exempt from program approval by the Office of Higher Education
284 under this subsection shall file with the office (A) an application for
285 approval of any new program of higher learning in excess of twelve new
286 programs in any academic year, (B) a program actions form, as created
287 by the office, prior to students enrolling in any new program of higher
288 learning or any existing program subject to a program modification, and
289 (C) not later than July first, and annually thereafter, (i) until June 30,
290 2024, a list and brief description of any new programs of higher learning
291 introduced by the institution in the preceding academic year and any
292 existing programs of higher learning discontinued by the institution in
293 the preceding academic year, (ii) the institution's current program
294 approval process and all actions of the governing board concerning
295 approval of any new program of higher learning, and (iii) the
296 institution's financial responsibility composite score, as determined by
297 the United States Department of Education, for the most recent fiscal
298 year for which the data necessary for determining the score is available.
299 An institution that is exempt from program approval pursuant to this
300 subsection may apply to the Office of Workforce Strategy, established
301 pursuant to section 4-124w, as amended by this act, in the form and
302 manner prescribed by said office, for additional exemptions from
303 approval of a new program of higher learning over the twelve exempted
304 in any academic year pursuant to this subsection. Said office may waive
305 the requirement for program approval for any new program if it
306 determines that the new program aligns with and furthers the goals of
307 the state workforce strategy approved by the Governor pursuant to
308 subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 4-124w, as amended by this

309 act.

310 Sec. 6. Section 10a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the
311 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

312 (a) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, as amended
313 by this act, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall have the
314 authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections and the
315 standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder, to (1)
316 review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
317 academic programs for the universities within the Connecticut State
318 University System, the regional community-technical colleges and
319 Charter Oak State College, and (2) until June 30, 2024, report all new
320 programs and program changes to the Office of Higher Education.

321 (b) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, as amended
322 by this act, the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut shall
323 (1) have the authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections
324 and the standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder,
325 to review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
326 academic programs at the university, and (2) until June 30, 2024, report
327 all new programs and program changes to the Office of Higher
328 Education.

329 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2023,
330 each private occupational school, as defined in section 10a-22a of the
331 general statutes, and each provider of an alternate route to certification
332 program approved by the State Board of Education shall submit, in a
333 form and manner prescribed by the executive director of the Office of
334 Higher Education, data for each student enrolled in such private
335 occupational school or alternate route to certification program,
336 including, but not limited to, course enrollment, course completion,
337 credential completion, fees and tuition charged, federal student loans
338 received, federal student loan balances, and for any student who has a
339 state-assigned student identifier pursuant to section 10-10a of the
340 general statutes, such student identifier.

341 (b) No identifiable student information provided to the Office of
342 Higher Education pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be
343 released to the public by the office. The Office of Higher Education shall
344 establish policies to protect any information provided pursuant to
345 subsection (a) of this section as if such information were protected
346 student data subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
347 of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time.

348 Sec. 8. Subsection (j) of section 31-225a of the general statutes is
349 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
350 *2021*):

351 (j) (1) (A) Each employer subject to this chapter shall submit
352 quarterly, on forms supplied by the administrator, a listing of wage
353 information, including the name of each employee receiving wages in
354 employment subject to this chapter, such employee's Social Security
355 account number and the amount of wages paid to such employee during
356 such calendar quarter.

357 (B) Commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2024, unless
358 waived pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection, any employer
359 subject to this chapter, with one hundred or more employees, shall
360 include in the quarterly filing submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)
361 of this subdivision, the following data for each employee receiving
362 wages in employment subject to this chapter: Such employee's gender
363 identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, disability status, highest
364 education completed, home address, address of primary work site,
365 occupational code under the standard occupational classification
366 system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department
367 of Labor, hours worked, days worked, salary or hourly wage,
368 employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable,
369 employment end date. The information required pursuant to this
370 subparagraph shall be included in the quarterly filings of employers
371 subject to this chapter with ninety-nine or fewer employees
372 commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2025, except employers
373 subject to this chapter with forty-nine or fewer employees without an

374 electronic payroll system shall include such information commencing
375 with the third calendar quarter of 2027. Nothing in this subparagraph
376 shall be construed to require an employee to provide information about
377 gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status or disability status if
378 not otherwise required by law. The administrator may issue guidance
379 defining each such data field.

380 (2) [Commencing with the first calendar quarter of 2014, each] Each
381 employer subject to this chapter who reports wages for employees
382 receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter, and each person
383 or organization that, as an agent, reports wages for employees receiving
384 wages in employment subject to this chapter on behalf of one or more
385 employers subject to this chapter shall submit quarterly the information
386 required by subdivision (1) of this subsection [on magnetic tape,
387 diskette, or other similar electronic means which the administrator may
388 prescribe] electronically, in a format and manner prescribed by the
389 administrator, unless such employer or agent receives a waiver
390 pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection.

391 (3) Any employer that fails to submit the information required by
392 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection in a timely
393 manner, as determined by the administrator, shall be liable to the
394 administrator for a late filing fee of twenty-five dollars. Any employer
395 that fails to submit the information required by subparagraph (A) of
396 subdivision (1) of this subsection under a proper state unemployment
397 compensation registration number shall be liable to the administrator
398 for a fee of twenty-five dollars. All fees collected by the administrator
399 under this subdivision shall be deposited in the Employment Security
400 Administration Fund.

401 (4) [Commencing with the first calendar quarter of 2014, each] Each
402 employer subject to this chapter who makes contributions or payments
403 in lieu of contributions for employees receiving wages in employment
404 subject to this chapter, and each person or organization that, as an agent,
405 makes contributions or payments in lieu of contributions for employees
406 receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter on behalf of one

407 or more employers subject to this chapter shall make such contributions
408 or payments in lieu of contributions electronically.

409 (5) Any employer or any person or organization that, as an agent,
410 [submits] is required to submit information pursuant to subdivision (2)
411 of this subsection, [or makes] make contributions or payments in lieu of
412 contributions pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection or submit
413 information pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
414 subsection may request in writing, not later than thirty days prior to the
415 date a submission of information or a contribution or payment in lieu of
416 contribution is due, that the administrator waive [the] such
417 requirement. [that such submission or contribution or payment in lieu
418 of contribution be made electronically.] The administrator shall grant
419 such request if, on the basis of information provided by such employer
420 or person or organization and on a form prescribed by the
421 administrator, the administrator finds that there would be undue
422 hardship for such employer or person or organization. The
423 administrator shall promptly inform such employer or person or
424 organization of the granting or rejection of the requested waiver. The
425 decision of the administrator shall be final and not subject to further
426 review or appeal. Such waiver shall be effective for twelve months from
427 the date such waiver is granted.

428 (6) No identifiable information about an employer or an employee
429 provided to the administrator pursuant to subparagraph (B) of
430 subdivision (1) of this subsection may be released or disclosed to the
431 public by the administrator or the Labor Department. The administrator
432 or the department may share nonidentifiable information provided
433 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection with
434 another state agency, another state or territory, the federal government
435 or to support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN in accordance
436 with the policies and procedures of CP20 WIN, established pursuant
437 section 10a-57g, for the purposes of program administration, audit,
438 evaluation or research.

439 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 12-15 of the general statutes is

440 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
441 *1, 2021*):

442 (b) The commissioner may disclose (1) returns or return information
443 to (A) an authorized representative of another state agency or office,
444 upon written request by the head of such agency or office, when
445 required in the course of duty or when there is reasonable cause to
446 believe that any state law is being violated, or (B) an authorized
447 representative of an agency or office of the United States, upon written
448 request by the head of such agency or office, when required in the course
449 of duty or when there is reasonable cause to believe that any federal law
450 is being violated, provided no such agency or office shall disclose such
451 returns or return information, other than in a judicial or administrative
452 proceeding to which such agency or office is a party pertaining to the
453 enforcement of state or federal law, as the case may be, in a form which
454 can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a
455 particular taxpayer except that the names and addresses of jurors or
456 potential jurors and the fact that the names were derived from the list of
457 taxpayers pursuant to chapter 884 may be disclosed by the Judicial
458 Branch; (2) returns or return information to the Auditors of Public
459 Accounts, when required in the course of duty under chapter 23; (3)
460 returns or return information to tax officers of another state or of a
461 Canadian province or of a political subdivision of such other state or
462 province or of the District of Columbia or to any officer of the United
463 States Treasury Department or the United States Department of Health
464 and Human Services, authorized for such purpose in accordance with
465 an agreement between this state and such other state, province, political
466 subdivision, the District of Columbia or department, respectively, when
467 required in the administration of taxes imposed under the laws of such
468 other state, province, political subdivision, the District of Columbia or
469 the United States, respectively, and when a reciprocal arrangement
470 exists; (4) returns or return information in any action, case or proceeding
471 in any court of competent jurisdiction, when the commissioner or any
472 other state department or agency is a party, and when such information
473 is directly involved in such action, case or proceeding; (5) returns or
474 return information to a taxpayer or its authorized representative, upon

475 written request for a return filed by or return information on such
476 taxpayer; (6) returns or return information to a successor, receiver,
477 trustee, executor, administrator, assignee, guardian or guarantor of a
478 taxpayer, when such person establishes, to the satisfaction of the
479 commissioner, that such person has a material interest which will be
480 affected by information contained in such returns or return information;
481 (7) information to the assessor or an authorized representative of the
482 chief executive officer of a Connecticut municipality, when the
483 information disclosed is limited to (A) a list of real or personal property
484 that is or may be subject to property taxes in such municipality, or (B) a
485 list containing the name of each person who is issued any license, permit
486 or certificate which is required, under the provisions of this title, to be
487 conspicuously displayed and whose address is in such municipality; (8)
488 real estate conveyance tax return information or controlling interest
489 transfer tax return information to the town clerk or an authorized
490 representative of the chief executive officer of a Connecticut
491 municipality to which the information relates; (9) estate tax returns and
492 estate tax return information to the Probate Court Administrator or to
493 the court of probate for the district within which a decedent resided at
494 the date of the decedent's death, or within which the commissioner
495 contends that a decedent resided at the date of the decedent's death or,
496 if a decedent died a nonresident of this state, in the court of probate for
497 the district within which real estate or tangible personal property of the
498 decedent is situated, or within which the commissioner contends that
499 real estate or tangible personal property of the decedent is situated; (10)
500 returns or return information to the (A) Secretary of the Office of Policy
501 and Management for purposes of subsection (b) of section 12-7a, and (B)
502 Office of Fiscal Analysis for purposes of, and subject to the provisions
503 of, subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 12-7b; (11) return
504 information to the Jury Administrator, when the information disclosed
505 is limited to the names, addresses, federal Social Security numbers and
506 dates of birth, if available, of residents of this state, as defined in
507 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-701; (12) returns or return
508 information to any person to the extent necessary in connection with the
509 processing, storage, transmission or reproduction of such returns or

510 return information, and the programming, maintenance, repair, testing
511 or procurement of equipment, or the providing of other services, for
512 purposes of tax administration; (13) without written request and unless
513 the commissioner determines that disclosure would identify a
514 confidential informant or seriously impair a civil or criminal tax
515 investigation, returns and return information which may constitute
516 evidence of a violation of any civil or criminal law of this state or the
517 United States to the extent necessary to apprise the head of such agency
518 or office charged with the responsibility of enforcing such law, in which
519 event the head of such agency or office may disclose such return
520 information to officers and employees of such agency or office to the
521 extent necessary to enforce such law; (14) names and addresses of
522 operators, as defined in section 12-407, to tourism districts, as defined in
523 section 10-397; (15) names of each licensed dealer, as defined in section
524 12-285, and the location of the premises covered by the dealer's license;
525 (16) to a tobacco product manufacturer that places funds into escrow
526 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of section 4-28i, return
527 information of a distributor licensed under the provisions of chapter 214
528 or chapter 214a, provided the information disclosed is limited to
529 information relating to such manufacturer's sales to consumers within
530 this state, whether directly or through a distributor, dealer or similar
531 intermediary or intermediaries, of cigarettes, as defined in section 4-28h,
532 and further provided there is reasonable cause to believe that such
533 manufacturer is not in compliance with section 4-28i; (17) returns, which
534 shall not include a copy of the return filed with the commissioner, or
535 return information for purposes of section 12-217z; (18) returns or return
536 information to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, upon
537 written request by said commission, when necessary to investigate
538 suspected violations of state election laws; [and] (19) returns or return
539 information for purposes of, and subject to the conditions of, subsection
540 (e) of section 5-240; and (20) return information to another state agency
541 or to support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN, established
542 in section 10a-57g, in accordance with the policies and procedures of
543 CP20 WIN for the purposes of evaluation or research, to the extent
544 allowable under federal law.

545 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) No officer, employee or agent of
546 a department, board, commission, public institution of higher education
547 or any other agency of the state, or any officer, employee or agent of a
548 local or regional board of education, shall share, disclose or make
549 accessible in any manner records or information obtained by such
550 officer, employee or agent from an application for institutional financial
551 aid for students without legal immigration status, pursuant to section
552 10a-161d of the general statutes, to any federal immigration authority,
553 as defined in section 54-192h of the general statutes.

554 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

555 (1) "Eligible organization" means any provider of a training program,
556 provider of an alternate route to certification program approved by the
557 State Board of Education, institution of higher education, private
558 occupational school, employer, state or municipal agency and public or
559 nonprofit social service provider in the state; and

560 (2) "Approved class" means a set of employees, clients, students or
561 customers of an eligible organization.

562 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of
563 Transportation shall establish CTpass program to allow individuals in
564 an approved class for an eligible organization to use certain public
565 transit services without cost or at a reduced cost. The commissioner shall
566 post information regarding the CTpass program and application
567 process for such program on the Department of Transportation's
568 Internet web site in a manner that, in the commissioner's discretion, will
569 maximize awareness and participation by the greatest number of
570 eligible organizations.

571 (c) Upon receipt of an application from an eligible organization to
572 participate in the CTpass program, the commissioner may negotiate the
573 terms and conditions and enter into a contract with such eligible
574 organization. The commissioner may treat several eligible organizations
575 as a single eligible organization for the purposes of a contract under the
576 CTpass program. Such terms and conditions shall include, but not be

577 limited to, the amount of compensation or reimbursement required
578 from the eligible organization, the definition of approved class specific
579 to the eligible organization and any limitations on times of use or types
580 of public transit services available to the approved class. The
581 compensation or reimbursement negotiated in the contract shall be in
582 an amount as the commissioner deems necessary or advisable, provided
583 the amount is sufficient to ensure that transit service expenditures
584 incurred by the department do not increase as a result of the CTpass
585 program and to cover any administrative costs incurred by the
586 department in the operation of the CTpass program. A contract under
587 the CTpass program shall be valid upon the approval of the Office of
588 Policy and Management for a term of not more than two years, except
589 the first contract with an eligible organization shall not exceed twelve
590 months. Prior to any renewal of a contract with an eligible organization
591 under the CTpass program, the commissioner shall consider prior pass
592 utilization information and any transit service expenditure increases
593 incurred by the department for the purpose of re-evaluating the amount
594 of compensation or reimbursement required from such eligible
595 organization.

596 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
597 Commissioner of Transportation shall submit a report to the Secretary
598 of the Office of Policy and Management on the financial data and pass
599 utilization information for each contract under the CTpass program.

600 Sec. 12. Section 10a-223 of the general statutes is repealed and the
601 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

602 In this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the
603 following meanings unless the context indicates another or different
604 meaning or intent:

605 (1) "Authority" means the Connecticut Higher Education
606 Supplemental Loan Authority constituted as a subsidiary of the
607 Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority as provided in
608 section 10a-179a;

609 (2) "Authorized officer" means an employee of the Connecticut
610 Health and Educational Facilities Authority or of the authority who is
611 authorized by the board of directors of the authority to execute and
612 deliver documents and papers and to act in the name of and on behalf
613 of the authority;

614 (3) "Authority loans" means education loans by the authority, or loans
615 by the authority from the proceeds of bonds for the purpose of funding
616 education loans;

617 (4) "Board" means the board of directors of the authority;

618 (5) "Bonds" or "revenue bonds" means revenue bonds or notes of the
619 authority issued under the provisions of this chapter, including revenue
620 refunding bonds or notes;

621 (6) "Bond resolution" means the resolution or resolutions of the
622 authority and the trust agreement, if any, authorizing the issuance of
623 and providing for the terms and conditions applicable to bonds;

624 (7) "Borrower" means (A) an individual who has an outstanding loan
625 from the authority, (B) an individual who attends a Connecticut
626 institution for higher education, enrolls in a Connecticut high-value
627 certificate program or currently resides in the state, and has received or
628 agreed to pay an education loan, or (C) any parent who has received or
629 agreed to pay an education loan on behalf of an individual who attends
630 a Connecticut institution for higher education or currently resides in the
631 state;

632 (8) "Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority" means
633 the quasi-public authority established pursuant to section 10a-179;

634 (9) "Connecticut institution for higher education" means an
635 institution for higher education within the state;

636 (10) "Default insurance" means insurance insuring education loans,
637 authority loans or bonds against default;

638 (11) "Default reserve fund" means a fund established pursuant to a
639 bond resolution for the purpose of securing education loans, authority
640 loans or bonds;

641 (12) "Education loan" means a loan which is made to a student in or
642 from the state or a parent of such student to finance attendance at an
643 institution for higher education or enrollment in a high-value certificate
644 program, or to a borrower to refinance one or more eligible loans;

645 (13) "Loan funding deposit" means moneys or other property
646 deposited by a Connecticut institution for higher education with the
647 authority, a guarantor or a trustee for the purpose of (A) providing
648 security for bonds, (B) funding a default reserve fund, (C) acquiring
649 default insurance, or (D) defraying costs of the authority, such moneys
650 or properties to be in such amounts as deemed necessary by the
651 authority or guarantor as a condition for such institution's participation
652 in the authority's programs;

653 (14) "Institution for higher education" means a degree-granting
654 educational institution within the United States authorized by
655 applicable law to provide a program of education beyond the high
656 school level and (A) described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
657 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal
658 revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, and
659 exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of said code with respect to
660 a trade or business carried on by such institution which is not an
661 unrelated trade or business, determined by applying Section 513(a) of
662 said code to such organization or a foundation established for its benefit,
663 or (B) exempt from taxation under said code as a governmental unit;

664 (15) "Participating institution for higher education" means a
665 Connecticut institution for higher education which, pursuant to the
666 provisions of this chapter, undertakes the financing directly or
667 indirectly of education loans as provided in this chapter;

668 (16) "Parent" means any parent, legal guardian or sponsor of a
669 student at an institution for higher education or enrolled in a high-value

670 certificate program;

671 (17) "Education loan series portfolio" means all education loans made
672 by the authority or by or on behalf of a specific participating institution
673 for higher education which are funded from the proceeds of a related
674 specific bond issue of the authority;

675 (18) "Education assistance program" means a program to assist in
676 financing the costs of education through education loans or education
677 grants, or both;

678 (19) "Education grant" means a grant, scholarship, fellowship or other
679 nonrepayable assistance awarded by the authority to a student currently
680 residing in the state to finance the attendance of the student at a
681 Connecticut institution for higher education or enrollment in a
682 Connecticut high-value certificate program, or a grant, scholarship,
683 fellowship or other nonrepayable assistance awarded by or on behalf of
684 a Connecticut institution for higher education from the proceeds of
685 funds provided by the authority to a student from the state to finance
686 the student's attendance at such institution; [and]

687 (20) "Eligible loan" means any loan that is in repayment that was (A)
688 made by the authority, or (B) made to a borrower by any other private
689 or governmental lender to finance attendance at an institution for higher
690 education [.] or enrollment in a high-value certificate program;

691 (21) "High-value certificate program" means a noncredit sub-
692 baccalaureate certificate program offered by an institution of higher
693 education or a private occupational school that the Office of Workforce
694 Strategy designates to be a credential of value pursuant to section 4 of
695 this act; and

696 (22) "Connecticut high-value certificate program" means a high-value
697 certificate program offered by an institution of higher education or a
698 private occupational school in the state.

699 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The Connecticut Higher
700 Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish an account to be

701 known as the Certificate Loan Loss Reserve and Funding account, which
702 shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any
703 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, including, but
704 not limited to, state appropriations or proceeds from the sale of bonds.
705 Moneys in the account shall be expended by the authority to (1) fund
706 authority loans issued to a borrower to finance enrollment in a
707 Connecticut high-value certificate program, as defined in section 10a-
708 223 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) to cover any losses
709 incurred by the authority from issuing such authority loans, (3) for
710 reasonable and necessary expenses for the administration of such
711 authority loans, and (4) any initial implementation expenses prior to the
712 origination of such authority loans.

713 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than September 1, 2022,
714 and every two years thereafter until September 1, 2028, the Chief
715 Workforce Officer shall submit to the Board of Regents for Higher
716 Education and the Governor a report on credentials, as defined in
717 section 3 of this act, and skills that are in demand in the labor market
718 and that lead to quality jobs.

719 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than February 1, 2023,
720 the Chief Workforce Officer, jointly with the Commissioners of
721 Correction and Labor and the Undersecretary for Criminal Justice at the
722 Office of Policy and Management, shall submit to the Governor, the
723 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and, in accordance
724 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
725 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
726 matters relating to the judiciary, higher education and employment
727 advancement, labor, and commerce, recommendations to improve
728 workforce training and attainment of credentials, as defined in section
729 3, for individuals incarcerated by the Department of Correction,
730 including but not limited to (1) whether credential attainment shall be a
731 factor for early release, and (2) credentials and skills that are in demand
732 in the labor market and that lead to quality jobs, including any barriers
733 to equitable access to such quality jobs.

734 Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the general statutes is
735 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
736 *2021*):

737 (b) Nothing in the Freedom of Information Act shall be construed to
738 require disclosure of:

739 (1) Preliminary drafts or notes provided the public agency has
740 determined that the public interest in withholding such documents
741 clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure;

742 (2) Personnel or medical files and similar files the disclosure of which
743 would constitute an invasion of personal privacy;

744 (3) Records of law enforcement agencies not otherwise available to
745 the public which records were compiled in connection with the
746 detection or investigation of crime, if the disclosure of such records
747 would not be in the public interest because it would result in the
748 disclosure of (A) the identity of informants not otherwise known or the
749 identity of witnesses not otherwise known whose safety would be
750 endangered or who would be subject to threat or intimidation if their
751 identity was made known, (B) the identity of minor witnesses, (C)
752 signed statements of witnesses, (D) information to be used in a
753 prospective law enforcement action if prejudicial to such action, (E)
754 investigatory techniques not otherwise known to the general public, (F)
755 arrest records of a juvenile, which shall also include any investigatory
756 files, concerning the arrest of such juvenile, compiled for law
757 enforcement purposes, (G) the name and address of the victim of a
758 sexual assault under section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or
759 53a-73a, voyeurism under section 53a-189a, injury or risk of injury, or
760 impairing of morals under section 53-21 or family violence, as defined
761 in section 46b-38a, or of an attempt thereof, or (H) uncorroborated
762 allegations subject to destruction pursuant to section 1-216;

763 (4) Records pertaining to strategy and negotiations with respect to
764 pending claims or pending litigation to which the public agency is a
765 party until such litigation or claim has been finally adjudicated or

766 otherwise settled;

767 (5) (A) Trade secrets, which for purposes of the Freedom of
768 Information Act, are defined as information, including formulas,
769 patterns, compilations, programs, devices, methods, techniques,
770 processes, drawings, cost data, customer lists, film or television scripts
771 or detailed production budgets that (i) derive independent economic
772 value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not
773 being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can
774 obtain economic value from their disclosure or use, and (ii) are the
775 subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to
776 maintain secrecy; and

777 (B) Commercial or financial information given in confidence, not
778 required by statute;

779 (6) Test questions, scoring keys and other examination data used to
780 administer a licensing examination, examination for employment or
781 academic examinations;

782 (7) The contents of real estate appraisals, engineering or feasibility
783 estimates and evaluations made for or by an agency relative to the
784 acquisition of property or to prospective public supply and construction
785 contracts, until such time as all of the property has been acquired or all
786 proceedings or transactions have been terminated or abandoned,
787 provided the law of eminent domain shall not be affected by this
788 provision;

789 (8) Statements of personal worth or personal financial data required
790 by a licensing agency and filed by an applicant with such licensing
791 agency to establish the applicant's personal qualification for the license,
792 certificate or permit applied for;

793 (9) Records, reports and statements of strategy or negotiations with
794 respect to collective bargaining;

795 (10) Records, tax returns, reports and statements exempted by federal
796 law or the general statutes or communications privileged by the

797 attorney-client relationship, marital relationship, clergy-penitent
798 relationship, doctor-patient relationship, therapist-patient relationship
799 or any other privilege established by the common law or the general
800 statutes, including any such records, tax returns, reports or
801 communications that were created or made prior to the establishment
802 of the applicable privilege under the common law or the general
803 statutes;

804 (11) Names or addresses of students enrolled in any public school or
805 college without the consent of each student whose name or address is to
806 be disclosed who is eighteen years of age or older and a parent or
807 guardian of each such student who is younger than eighteen years of
808 age, provided this subdivision shall not be construed as prohibiting the
809 disclosure of the names or addresses of students enrolled in any public
810 school in a regional school district to the board of selectmen or town
811 board of finance, as the case may be, of the town wherein the student
812 resides for the purpose of verifying tuition payments made to such
813 school;

814 (12) Any information obtained by the use of illegal means;

815 (13) Records of an investigation or the name of an employee
816 providing information under the provisions of section 4-61dd or
817 sections 4-276 to 4-280, inclusive;

818 (14) Adoption records and information provided for in sections 45a-
819 746, 45a-750 and 45a-751;

820 (15) Any page of a primary petition, nominating petition, referendum
821 petition or petition for a town meeting submitted under any provision
822 of the general statutes or of any special act, municipal charter or
823 ordinance, until the required processing and certification of such page
824 has been completed by the official or officials charged with such duty
825 after which time disclosure of such page shall be required;

826 (16) Records of complaints, including information compiled in the
827 investigation thereof, brought to a municipal health authority pursuant

828 to chapter 368e or a district department of health pursuant to chapter
829 368f, until such time as the investigation is concluded or thirty days
830 from the date of receipt of the complaint, whichever occurs first;

831 (17) Educational records which are not subject to disclosure under the
832 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 USC 1232g;

833 (18) Records, the disclosure of which the Commissioner of
834 Correction, or as it applies to Whiting Forensic Hospital, the
835 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, has reasonable
836 grounds to believe may result in a safety risk, including the risk of harm
837 to any person or the risk of an escape from, or a disorder in, a
838 correctional institution or facility under the supervision of the
839 Department of Correction or Whiting Forensic Hospital. Such records
840 shall include, but are not limited to:

841 (A) Security manuals, including emergency plans contained or
842 referred to in such security manuals;

843 (B) Engineering and architectural drawings of correctional
844 institutions or facilities or Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities;

845 (C) Operational specifications of security systems utilized by the
846 Department of Correction at any correctional institution or facility or
847 Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities, except that a general description of
848 any such security system and the cost and quality of such system may
849 be disclosed;

850 (D) Training manuals prepared for correctional institutions and
851 facilities or Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities that describe, in any
852 manner, security procedures, emergency plans or security equipment;

853 (E) Internal security audits of correctional institutions and facilities or
854 Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities;

855 (F) Minutes or recordings of staff meetings of the Department of
856 Correction or Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities, or portions of such
857 minutes or recordings, that contain or reveal information relating to

858 security or other records otherwise exempt from disclosure under this
859 subdivision;

860 (G) Logs or other documents that contain information on the
861 movement or assignment of inmates or staff at correctional institutions
862 or facilities; and

863 (H) Records that contain information on contacts between inmates, as
864 defined in section 18-84, and law enforcement officers;

865 (19) Records when there are reasonable grounds to believe disclosure
866 may result in a safety risk, including the risk of harm to any person, any
867 government-owned or leased institution or facility or any fixture or
868 appurtenance and equipment attached to, or contained in, such
869 institution or facility, except that such records shall be disclosed to a law
870 enforcement agency upon the request of the law enforcement agency.
871 Such reasonable grounds shall be determined (A) (i) by the
872 Commissioner of Administrative Services, after consultation with the
873 chief executive officer of an executive branch state agency, with respect
874 to records concerning such agency; and (ii) by the Commissioner of
875 Emergency Services and Public Protection, after consultation with the
876 chief executive officer of a municipal, district or regional agency, with
877 respect to records concerning such agency; (B) by the Chief Court
878 Administrator with respect to records concerning the Judicial
879 Department; and (C) by the executive director of the Joint Committee on
880 Legislative Management, with respect to records concerning the
881 Legislative Department. As used in this section, "government-owned or
882 leased institution or facility" includes, but is not limited to, an institution
883 or facility owned or leased by a public service company, as defined in
884 section 16-1, other than a water company, as defined in section 25-32a, a
885 certified telecommunications provider, as defined in section 16-1, or a
886 municipal utility that furnishes electric or gas service, but does not
887 include an institution or facility owned or leased by the federal
888 government, and "chief executive officer" includes, but is not limited to,
889 an agency head, department head, executive director or chief executive
890 officer. Such records include, but are not limited to:

- 891 (i) Security manuals or reports;
- 892 (ii) Engineering and architectural drawings of government-owned or
893 leased institutions or facilities;
- 894 (iii) Operational specifications of security systems utilized at any
895 government-owned or leased institution or facility, except that a general
896 description of any such security system and the cost and quality of such
897 system may be disclosed;
- 898 (iv) Training manuals prepared for government-owned or leased
899 institutions or facilities that describe, in any manner, security
900 procedures, emergency plans or security equipment;
- 901 (v) Internal security audits of government-owned or leased
902 institutions or facilities;
- 903 (vi) Minutes or records of meetings, or portions of such minutes or
904 records, that contain or reveal information relating to security or other
905 records otherwise exempt from disclosure under this subdivision;
- 906 (vii) Logs or other documents that contain information on the
907 movement or assignment of security personnel; and
- 908 (viii) Emergency plans and emergency preparedness, response,
909 recovery and mitigation plans, including plans provided by a person to
910 a state agency or a local emergency management agency or official;
- 911 (20) Records of standards, procedures, processes, software and codes,
912 not otherwise available to the public, the disclosure of which would
913 compromise the security or integrity of an information technology
914 system;
- 915 (21) The residential, work or school address of any participant in the
916 address confidentiality program established pursuant to sections 54-240
917 to 54-240o, inclusive;
- 918 (22) The electronic mail address of any person that is obtained by the
919 Department of Transportation in connection with the implementation

920 or administration of any plan to inform individuals about significant
921 highway or railway incidents;

922 (23) The name or address of any minor enrolled in any parks and
923 recreation program administered or sponsored by any public agency;

924 (24) Responses to any request for proposals or bid solicitation issued
925 by a public agency, responses by a public agency to any request for
926 proposals or bid solicitation issued by a private entity or any record or
927 file made by a public agency in connection with the contract award
928 process, until such contract is executed or negotiations for the award of
929 such contract have ended, whichever occurs earlier, provided the chief
930 executive officer of such public agency certifies that the public interest
931 in the disclosure of such responses, record or file is outweighed by the
932 public interest in the confidentiality of such responses, record or file;

933 (25) The name, address, telephone number or electronic mail address
934 of any person enrolled in any senior center program or any member of
935 a senior center administered or sponsored by any public agency;

936 (26) All records obtained during the course of inspection,
937 investigation, examination and audit activities of an institution, as
938 defined in section 19a-490, that are confidential pursuant to a contract
939 between the Department of Public Health and the United States
940 Department of Health and Human Services relating to the Medicare and
941 Medicaid programs;

942 (27) Any record created by a law enforcement agency or other federal,
943 state, or municipal governmental agency consisting of a photograph,
944 film, video or digital or other visual image depicting the victim of a
945 homicide, to the extent that such record could reasonably be expected
946 to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the
947 victim or the victim's surviving family members;

948 (28) Any documentation provided to or obtained by an executive
949 branch agency, including documentation provided or obtained prior to
950 May 25, 2016, relating to claims of faulty or failing concrete foundations

951 in residential buildings by the owners of such residential buildings, and
952 documents prepared by an executive branch agency relating to such
953 documentation, for seven years after the date of receipt of the
954 documentation or seven years after May 25, 2016, whichever is later; .]

955 (29) Any information reported to an executive branch agency by an
956 institution of higher education, private occupational school or any other
957 provider of training or certificate programs concerning applicants for
958 admission to or students enrolled in such institutions, schools or
959 programs, including, but not limited to, information regarding
960 enrollment, program completion and student loans or other financial
961 aid;

962 (30) Any employee information provided to the Labor Commissioner
963 by an employer pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of
964 subsection (j) of section 31-225a, as amended by this act;

965 (31) Records of or information from the Free Application for Federal
966 Student Aid, institutional financial aid for students without legal
967 immigration status established pursuant to section 10a-161d, and
968 applications for admission to institutions of higher education held by
969 any department, board, commission, public institution of higher
970 education or any other agency of the state, or any local or regional board
971 of education, including such materials not otherwise protected under
972 the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g,
973 as amended from time to time.

974 Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 10-21j of the general statutes is
975 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
976 *2021*):

977 (a) The Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with the Board
978 of Regents for Higher Education, shall establish the Connecticut
979 Apprenticeship and Education Committee to coordinate and identify (1)
980 potential preapprenticeship and apprenticeship training program
981 integration, and (2) leveraged funding identification of career technical
982 education programs within high schools and programs within higher

983 education institutions for careers in various industries. Such committee
984 shall include, but not be limited to, (A) representatives from the
985 Department of Economic and Community Development, the Labor
986 Department, the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, the
987 Connecticut Manufacturers Collaborative, the Technical Education and
988 Career System, the advanced manufacturing centers at the regional
989 community-technical colleges, independent institutions of higher
990 education in the state that offer training in the field of manufacturing,
991 the [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission] Governor's
992 Workforce Council, companies and employee organizations that
993 represent manufacturing workers, and (B) teachers, guidance
994 counselors, school counselors, principals and superintendents.

995 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 10-95s of the general statutes is
996 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
997 *2021*):

998 (a) The Technical Education and Career System shall be advised by a
999 Technical Education and Career System board. The board shall consist
1000 of eleven members and shall include at least the following, (1) two
1001 members with experience in manufacturing or a trade offered by the
1002 Technical Education and Career System, or who are alumni of the
1003 system, (2) two members who are executives of Connecticut-based
1004 employers and who shall be nominated by the [Connecticut
1005 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce
1006 Council, established pursuant to section 31-3h. The Commissioners of
1007 Education and Economic and Community Development and the Labor
1008 Commissioner, or their respective designees, shall serve as ex-officio
1009 members of the board. Members of the board shall be appointed by the
1010 Governor with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, in
1011 accordance with the provisions of section 4-7. Any vacancy shall be
1012 filled in the manner provided in section 4-19. The Governor shall
1013 appoint the chairperson.

1014 Sec. 19. Subsection (b) of section 17b-688h of the general statutes is
1015 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

1016 2021):

1017 (b) Effective July 1, 1998, the Labor Department shall be responsible
1018 for the negotiation, establishment, modification, extension, suspension
1019 or termination of contracts for employment services. The Labor
1020 Department may provide administration and services directly or
1021 through the [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1022 Governor's Workforce Council or regional workforce development
1023 boards.

1024 Sec. 20. Subsection (c) of section 17b-688i of the general statutes is
1025 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1026 *2021*):

1027 (c) Not later than January 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, the Labor
1028 Department shall submit a report to the Governor, the joint standing
1029 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1030 relating to appropriations, human services and labor and public
1031 employees and the [Connecticut Employment and Training
1032 Commission] Governor's Workforce Council. Each report shall contain
1033 an evaluation of the operation of the employment services administered
1034 by the Labor Department pursuant to this section, including the number
1035 of persons who receive employment services, their gender and
1036 outcomes. Each such report shall also provide specific information
1037 regarding the cost-effectiveness of the employment services.

1038 Sec. 21. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 31-2 of the general statutes
1039 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1040 *1, 2021*):

1041 (b) The commissioner shall administer the coordination of all
1042 employment and training programs in the state and shall implement the
1043 plan of the [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1044 Governor's Workforce Council as approved by the Governor. The
1045 commissioner shall develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory
1046 of all employment and training programs in the state, including a listing
1047 of all funding sources for each program, the characteristics of the

1048 persons served, a description of each program and its results and the
1049 identification of areas of program overlap and duplication.

1050 (c) The commissioner shall provide staff to the [Connecticut
1051 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council
1052 and such other resources as the commissioner can make available.

1053 Sec. 22. Section 31-3h of the general statutes is repealed and the
1054 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1055 (a) There is created, within the Labor Department, the [Connecticut
1056 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce
1057 Council.

1058 (b) The duties and responsibilities of the [commission] council shall
1059 include:

1060 (1) Carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a state job training
1061 coordinating council pursuant to the federal Job Training Partnership
1062 Act, 29 USC 1532, as amended from time to time, a state human resource
1063 investment council pursuant to 29 USC 1501 et seq., as amended from
1064 time to time, and such other related entities as the Governor may direct;

1065 (2) Reviewing all employment and training programs in the state to
1066 determine their success in leading to and obtaining the goal of economic
1067 self-sufficiency and to determine if such programs are serving the needs
1068 of Connecticut's workers, employers and economy;

1069 (3) Reviewing and commenting on all employment and training
1070 programs enacted by the General Assembly;

1071 (4) Implementing the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
1072 Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from time to time. Such
1073 implementation shall include (A) developing, in consultation with the
1074 regional workforce development boards, a single Connecticut
1075 workforce development plan that (i) complies with the provisions of
1076 said act and section 31-11p, and (ii) includes comprehensive state
1077 performance measures for workforce development activities specified

1078 in Title I of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of
1079 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from time to time, which performance
1080 measures comply with the requirements of 20 CFR Part 666.100, (B)
1081 making recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the
1082 allocation of funds received by the state under said act and making
1083 recommendations to the regional workforce development boards
1084 concerning the use of formulas in allocating such funds to adult
1085 employment and job training activities and youth activities, as specified
1086 in said act, (C) providing oversight and coordination of the state-wide
1087 employment statistics system required by said act, (D) as appropriate,
1088 recommending to the Governor that the Governor apply for workforce
1089 flexibility plans and waiver authority under said act, after consultation
1090 with the regional workforce development boards, (E) developing
1091 performance criteria for regional workforce development boards to
1092 utilize in creating a list of eligible providers, and (F) on or before
1093 December 31, 1999, developing a uniform individual training accounts
1094 voucher system that shall be used by the regional workforce
1095 development boards to pay for training of eligible workers by eligible
1096 providers, as required under said act;

1097 (5) Developing and overseeing a plan for the continuous
1098 improvement of the regional workforce development boards
1099 established pursuant to section 31-3k;

1100 (6) Developing incumbent worker, and vocational and manpower
1101 training programs, including customized job training programs to
1102 enhance the productivity of Connecticut businesses and to increase the
1103 skills and earnings of underemployed and at-risk workers, and other
1104 programs administered by the regional workforce development boards.
1105 The Labor Department, in collaboration with the regional workforce
1106 development boards, shall implement any incumbent worker and
1107 customized job training programs developed by the commission
1108 pursuant to this subdivision;

1109 (7) Developing a strategy for providing comprehensive services to
1110 eligible youths, which strategy shall include developing youth

1111 preapprentice and apprentice programs through, but not limited to,
1112 technical education and career schools, and improving linkages
1113 between academic and occupational learning and other youth
1114 development activities; and

1115 (8) Coordinating an electronic state hiring campaign to encourage the
1116 reemployment of workers fifty years of age or older to be administered
1117 through the Labor Department's Internet web site, which shall include
1118 testimony from various employers that demonstrates the value of hiring
1119 and retaining workers fifty years of age or older. Not later than January
1120 1, 2015, the commission shall submit a report, in accordance with section
1121 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
1122 cognizance of matters relating to labor on the status of such campaign.

1123 Sec. 23. Section 31-3i of the general statutes is repealed and the
1124 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1125 (a) The members of the [Connecticut Employment and Training
1126 Commission] Governor's Workforce Council shall be appointed as
1127 specified in subsection (b) of this section.

1128 (b) (1) The [commission] council shall consist of twenty-four
1129 members, a majority of whom shall represent business and industry and
1130 the remainder of whom shall represent state and local governments,
1131 organized labor, education and community based organizations,
1132 including a representative of a community action agency, as defined in
1133 section 17b-885.

1134 (2) Effective six months after the United States Secretary of Labor
1135 approves the single Connecticut workforce development plan
1136 submitted to said secretary in accordance with the provisions of
1137 subsection (b) of section 31-11r, the Governor shall fill any vacancy on
1138 the [commission] council from recommendations submitted by the
1139 president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of
1140 Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of
1141 the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate and the
1142 minority leader of the House of Representatives.

1143 (c) [Members appointed to the commission prior to June 23, 1999,
1144 shall continue to serve on the commission as if they were appointed to
1145 the commission as of June 23, 1999.] The [commission] council shall
1146 meet no less than once every calendar quarter.

1147 Sec. 24. Subdivision (2) of section 31-3j of the general statutes is
1148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1149 *2021*):

1150 (2) ["Commission"] "Council" means the [Connecticut Employment
1151 and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council created
1152 under section 31-3h;

1153 Sec. 25. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 31-3w of the
1154 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1155 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1156 (1) Collaborate with the [Connecticut Employment and Training
1157 Commission] Governor's Workforce Council established pursuant to
1158 section 31-3h and the regional workforce development boards
1159 established pursuant to section 31-3k;

1160 Sec. 26. Section 31-3cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
1161 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1162 The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1163 Governor's Workforce Council, in cooperation with the Commission on
1164 Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity and the
1165 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, shall regularly
1166 collect and analyze data on state-supported training programs that
1167 measure the presence of gender or other systematic bias and work with
1168 the relevant boards and agencies to correct any problems that are found.

1169 Sec. 27. Section 31-3dd of the general statutes is repealed and the
1170 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1171 The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1172 Governor's Workforce Council, in consultation with the Labor

1173 Department, the Department of Economic and Community
1174 Development and the regional workforce development boards, shall
1175 recommend to the Office of Policy and Management and the joint
1176 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1177 matters relating to appropriations, budget targets for assisting state
1178 employers with their training needs.

1179 Sec. 28. Section 31-3ii of the general statutes is repealed and the
1180 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1181 (a) Within available appropriations, for the fiscal years ending June
1182 30, 2004, to June 30, 2006, inclusive, the [Connecticut Employment and
1183 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council, in cooperation
1184 with a consenting regional workforce development board, shall
1185 establish a pilot program that allows such board to use funds allocated
1186 to such board to expand an existing adult education program at a local
1187 or regional board of education within such regional workforce
1188 development board's region to enable incumbent workers to participate
1189 in such adult education program. For purposes of this section,
1190 "incumbent workers" means individuals who are employed in this state,
1191 but who are in need of additional skills, training or education in order
1192 to upgrade employment.

1193 (b) Not later than January 1, 2007, the [commission] council shall
1194 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to
1195 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
1196 cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment
1197 advancement and education on the establishment and any operation of
1198 the pilot program authorized under subsection (a) of this section.

1199 Sec. 29. Section 31-3oo of the general statutes is repealed and the
1200 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1201 The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1202 Governor's Workforce Council, in collaboration with the Connecticut
1203 Energy Sector Partnership, shall annually solicit and publicize
1204 information concerning efforts made by the institutions of higher

1205 education in this state to promote the green technology industry,
1206 including the development of new academic degree and certificate
1207 programs, courses of instruction and initiatives made by such
1208 institutions to align green jobs programs with employer needs.

1209 Sec. 30. Section 31-3yy of the general statutes is repealed and the
1210 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1211 On or before October 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
1212 [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission] Governor's
1213 Workforce Council shall submit to the Office of Policy and Management
1214 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
1215 cognizance of matters relating to labor, higher education and education
1216 a report card of each program emphasizing employment placement
1217 included in the [commission's] council's annual inventory developed
1218 and maintained by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to section 31-2.
1219 The report card shall, at a minimum, identify for each program the cost,
1220 number of individuals entering the program, number of individuals
1221 satisfactorily completing the program and the employment placement
1222 rates of those individuals at thirteen and twenty-six-week intervals
1223 following completion of the program or a statement as to why such
1224 measure is not relevant.

1225 Sec. 31. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-11m of the
1226 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1227 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1228 (2) Such reserved funds may be used only to carry out state-wide
1229 youth activities described in Section 129(b) of the federal Workforce
1230 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to
1231 time amended, or state-wide employment and training activities, for
1232 adults or for dislocated workers, described in Section 134(a)(2)(B) or
1233 Section 134(a)(3) of said act, provided such use is consistent with the
1234 Connecticut workforce development plan developed by the
1235 [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission] Governor's
1236 Workforce Council under section 31-11p, as amended by this act. The
1237 percentage of such reserved funds that are used for administrative costs

1238 shall be consistent with the provisions of Section 134(a)(3)(B) of said act.
1239 For purposes of this subdivision and subdivision (3) of this subsection,
1240 "administrative costs" has the same meaning as in 20 CFR Part 667,
1241 Subpart B.

1242 Sec. 32. Section 31-11o of the general statutes is repealed and the
1243 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1244 The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1245 Governor's Workforce Council established under section 31-3h is hereby
1246 recognized as the state-wide workforce development board for
1247 purposes of complying with the federal Workforce Innovation and
1248 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended.

1249 Sec. 33. Section 31-11p of the general statutes is repealed and the
1250 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1251 (a) The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1252 Governor's Workforce Council, in consultation with the regional
1253 workforce development boards, shall develop a single Connecticut
1254 workforce development plan that outlines a five-year strategy for the
1255 state of Connecticut's workforce development system and meets the
1256 requirements of Sections 111 and 112 of the federal Workforce
1257 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to
1258 time amended. Said plan shall serve as a framework for the
1259 development of public policy, fiscal investment and operation of
1260 workforce education and job training programs and shall constitute the
1261 single state plan for purposes of Section 112 of said act. The [Connecticut
1262 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce
1263 Council, in consultation with the regional workforce development
1264 boards, shall update said plan at least once every five years.

1265 (b) The plan shall, at a minimum, include:

1266 (1) Long-term goals for the state's workforce development system.
1267 Such goals shall include local control of service delivery, one-stop
1268 delivery of services, individual choice for individuals served by the

1269 system, accountability for provider performance, coordination of
1270 workforce development activities integrating state and federal
1271 resources and the establishment of ties between funding and actual
1272 participation in training activities;

1273 (2) Short-term goals, benchmarks and performance measures that the
1274 state will use to measure its progress towards meeting the long-term
1275 goals identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection;

1276 (3) Identification of the role each institution, entity, organization and
1277 program plays in the state-wide workforce development system;

1278 (4) Ways to improve access to public and certified nonpublic
1279 postsecondary educational institutions;

1280 (5) A strategy for assessing unmet workforce preparation needs;

1281 (6) A description of comprehensive performance measures to ensure
1282 coordination and eliminate duplication of services;

1283 (7) A strategy for assessing types of jobs for which there are shortages
1284 of available qualified workers and the geographical concentration of
1285 unmet workforce needs in this state;

1286 (8) A strategy for maximizing or redirecting funding to deliver
1287 services more effectively to meet the state's workforce development
1288 needs;

1289 (9) A provision stating that the members of the [Connecticut
1290 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council
1291 and the regional workforce development boards shall comply with state
1292 ethics laws and the applicable provisions of Sections 111(f) and 117(g)
1293 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L.
1294 113-128, as from time to time amended;

1295 (10) A provision stating that the Labor Commissioner and the
1296 Commissioners of Social Services and Education shall develop a
1297 coordinated program of referring workforce development participants

1298 to supportive services, including, but not limited to, transportation and
1299 child care services for eligible participants of workforce activities. Such
1300 program shall include a requirement that each regional workforce
1301 development board submit an annual report to the [commission]
1302 council on or before January 31, 2000, and each January thirty-first
1303 thereafter detailing such board's plan for coordinating such supportive
1304 services;

1305 (11) A description of the state of Connecticut's proposed one-stop
1306 delivery system, which shall be consistent with the provisions of Section
1307 134(c) of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014,
1308 P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended, and shall include a
1309 description of the following components: (A) A uniform individual
1310 training accounts voucher system which shall be used by the regional
1311 workforce development boards to pay for training of eligible workers
1312 by eligible providers and which shall include a reporting system that
1313 ties funding to actual participation in training programs, (B) the core
1314 services, as identified in subdivision (12) of this subsection, which shall
1315 be available to adults or dislocated workers, including exemptions from
1316 core services, (C) the intensive services, as identified in subdivision (13)
1317 of this subsection, which shall be available to adults or dislocated
1318 workers who have received the maximum amount of core services but
1319 were unable to obtain employment through such core services,
1320 including prerequisites for obtaining such intensive services and
1321 exemptions from such prerequisites, and (D) the training services, as
1322 identified in subdivision (14) of this subsection, which shall be available
1323 to adults or dislocated workers who have received intensive services,
1324 but were unable to obtain unsubsidized employment through such
1325 intensive services, including prerequisites for obtaining such training
1326 services and exemptions from such prerequisites;

1327 (12) Identification of core services available under the one-stop
1328 delivery system, which shall, at a minimum, include: (A) Determination
1329 of whether individuals are eligible to receive assistance under Subtitle B
1330 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L.
1331 113-128, as from time to time amended; (B) outreach, intake and

1332 orientation to the information and other services available through the
1333 one-stop delivery system; (C) a uniform assessment procedure for
1334 screening adults and dislocated workers which shall include, but not be
1335 limited to, initial assessment of skill levels, aptitudes, abilities,
1336 supportive service needs and for application of the self-sufficiency
1337 measurement developed in accordance with the provisions of section 4-
1338 66e; (D) job search and placement assistance and, where appropriate,
1339 career counseling; (E) provision of (i) employment statistics
1340 information, including the provision of accurate information concerning
1341 local, regional and national labor market areas, including job vacancy
1342 listings in such labor market areas, information on job skills necessary
1343 to obtain such vacant jobs and information relating to local occupations
1344 in demand and the earnings and skill requirements for such
1345 occupations; (ii) provider performance information and program cost
1346 information on eligible providers of training services, as described in
1347 Section 122 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of
1348 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended, provided by program,
1349 and eligible providers of youth activities described in Section 123 of said
1350 act, eligible providers of adult education described in Title II of said act,
1351 providers of postsecondary vocational education activities and
1352 vocational education activities, which shall include, but not be limited
1353 to, preapprentice programs available through, but not limited to, the
1354 Technical Education and Career System, available to school dropouts
1355 under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology
1356 Education Act, 20 USC 2301, et seq., and providers of vocational
1357 rehabilitation program activities described in Title I of the Rehabilitation
1358 Act of 1973, 29 USC 720, et seq.; (iii) information regarding how the local
1359 area is performing on the local performance measures and any
1360 additional performance information with respect to the one-stop
1361 delivery system in the local area; (iv) accurate information concerning
1362 the availability of supportive services, including child care and
1363 transportation, available through the local area and referral to such
1364 services, as appropriate; (v) information regarding filing claims for
1365 unemployment compensation under chapter 567; (F) assistance in
1366 establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for

1367 training and education programs that are not funded under said act and
1368 are available through the local area; (G) follow-up services, including
1369 counseling regarding the workplace, for participants in workforce
1370 investment activities authorized under Subtitle B of the federal
1371 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
1372 from time to time amended, who are placed in unsubsidized
1373 employment, for not less than twelve months after the first day of the
1374 employment, as appropriate; and (H) assistance in establishing
1375 eligibility for authorized activities under Section 403(a)(5) of the Social
1376 Security Act, as added by Section 5001 of the Balanced Budget Act of
1377 1997, available in the local area. For purposes of this subdivision, "local
1378 area" refers to an area designated as such pursuant to Section 116 of the
1379 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-
1380 128, as from time to time amended;

1381 (13) Identification of intensive services available under the one-stop
1382 delivery system, which services may include (A) comprehensive and
1383 specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of adults
1384 and dislocated workers, which may include diagnostic testing, use of
1385 special education planning and placement teams and use of other
1386 assessment tools and in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify
1387 employment barriers and appropriate employment goals; (B)
1388 development of an individual employment plan to identify the
1389 employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives and appropriate
1390 combination of services for the participant to achieve the employment
1391 goals; (C) group counseling; (D) individual counseling and career
1392 planning; (E) case management for participants seeking training
1393 services authorized under the federal Workforce Innovation and
1394 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended;
1395 and (F) short-term prevocational services, including development of
1396 learning skills, communication skills, interviewing skills, punctuality,
1397 personal maintenance skills and professional conduct, to prepare
1398 individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

1399 (14) Identification of training services authorized under the federal
1400 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as

1401 from time to time amended, that are available under the one-stop
1402 delivery system, which services may include a combination of
1403 occupational skills training, including training for nontraditional
1404 employment, on-the-job training, programs that combine workplace
1405 training with related instruction, which may include cooperative
1406 education programs, training programs operated by the private sector,
1407 skill upgrading and retraining, entrepreneurial training, job readiness
1408 training, adult education and literacy activities and customized job
1409 training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of
1410 employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the
1411 training;

1412 (15) Development of a uniform system of identifying and certifying
1413 eligible providers of the training services described in subdivision (13)
1414 of this subsection, which system shall (A) incorporate each of the
1415 requirements of Section 122 of the federal Workforce Innovation and
1416 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended,
1417 and (B) be used by each regional workforce development board in
1418 selecting an eligible provider of training services;

1419 (16) A strategy for the establishment of (A) regional youth councils
1420 by the regional workforce development boards, which regional youth
1421 councils shall (i) recommend eligible providers of youth activities to the
1422 council and conduct oversight of eligible providers of youth activities;
1423 (ii) in cooperation with local boards of education, identify available
1424 programs and activities to assist youths in completing education
1425 programs; (iii) identify available programs and activities to assist youths
1426 in securing and preserving employment; and (iv) coordinate youth
1427 activities with Job Corps services, coordinate youth activities authorized
1428 under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014,
1429 P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended, and improve the connection
1430 between court-involved youths and the state labor market; and (B)
1431 criteria for selection of regional youth council members and awarding
1432 youth program grants for state-wide youth activities described in
1433 Section 129(b) of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
1434 of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended;

1435 (17) Development of a program to provide job readiness and job
1436 search training to unemployed and underemployed noncustodial
1437 parents no later than July 1, 2000;

1438 (18) Development of a career pathways program to link alternative
1439 education programs to regional community-technical colleges and
1440 work-related learning no later than October 1, 2000; and

1441 (19) Any other provisions required to be included in the plan under
1442 Sections 111 and 112 of the federal Workforce Innovation and
1443 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended.

1444 (c) The Governor may submit modifications to the single Connecticut
1445 workforce development plan approved by the United States Secretary
1446 of Labor as necessary during the five-year period covered by the plan,
1447 with the advice and assistance of the [Connecticut Employment and
1448 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council, provided such
1449 modifications are (1) approved by the joint standing committees of the
1450 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1451 appropriations, education, labor and social services, and (2) consistent
1452 with the requirements of Sections 111 and 112 of the federal Workforce
1453 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to
1454 time amended.

1455 Sec. 34. Section 31-11q of the general statutes is repealed and the
1456 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1457 On or before October 15, 1999, the [Connecticut Employment and
1458 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council shall submit to
1459 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
1460 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, education, labor and
1461 social services the comprehensive state performance measures
1462 developed by said [commission] council in accordance with the
1463 provisions of subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 31-3h for
1464 activities specified in Title I of the federal Workforce Innovation and
1465 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended,
1466 and annually thereafter during any year in which such performance

1467 measures are modified.

1468 Sec. 35. Section 31-11r of the general statutes is repealed and the
1469 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1470 (a) On or before January 1, 2000, the [Connecticut Employment and
1471 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council shall submit a
1472 single Workforce Development Plan to the Governor, which plan shall
1473 (1) be approved by the General Assembly, (2) comply with the
1474 requirements of section 31-11p, and (3) comply with the requirements
1475 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L.
1476 13-128, as from time to time amended.

1477 (b) On or before March 15, 2000, the Governor shall submit a single
1478 Connecticut Workforce Development Plan to the United States
1479 Secretary of Labor, which plan shall satisfy the requirements of
1480 subsection (a) of this section.

1481 (c) The Governor shall submit to the United States Secretary of Labor
1482 any appropriate or necessary request for waiver of the statutory or
1483 regulatory requirements of the federal Workforce Innovation and
1484 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 13-128, as from time to time amended,
1485 with the advice and assistance of the [Connecticut Employment and
1486 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council.

1487 Sec. 36. Section 31-11s of the general statutes is repealed and the
1488 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1489 (a) On or before February 9, 2000, and annually thereafter, the
1490 [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission] Governor's
1491 Workforce Council shall make recommendations consistent with the
1492 provisions of the single Connecticut workforce development plan
1493 submitted to the Governor pursuant to section 31-11r to the Governor
1494 and the General Assembly concerning the appropriation of funds
1495 received for adult workforce development activities under the federal
1496 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
1497 from time to time amended, for (1) job-related vocational, literacy,

1498 language or numerical skills training; (2) underemployed and at-risk
1499 workers; (3) individuals with barriers to full-time, stable employment,
1500 including language, basic skills and occupational literacy barriers; (4)
1501 vocational training using apprentice and preapprentice programs and
1502 customized job training programs that are designed to serve at-risk
1503 workers and promote job retention and the obtainment of higher wage
1504 jobs; (5) special incentives for programs that successfully train (A)
1505 women for nontraditional employment, and (B) minorities for
1506 occupations or fields of work in which such minorities are
1507 underrepresented; and (6) special grants or contracts in each region for
1508 training programs that target workers who are difficult to serve,
1509 including, but not limited to, workers (A) with limited literacy or
1510 numerical skills, (B) without a high school diploma or its equivalent, or
1511 (C) for whom English is a second language. For purposes of this section,
1512 "nontraditional employment" refers to occupations or fields of work for
1513 which women comprise less than twenty-five per cent of the individuals
1514 employed in each such occupation or field of work.

1515 (b) On or before February 9, 2000, and annually thereafter, the
1516 [commission] council shall make recommendations to the Governor and
1517 the General Assembly concerning the appropriation of funds received
1518 under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014,
1519 P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended, for dislocated workers.

1520 (c) Pursuant to Section 189(i)(4)(A) of the federal Workforce
1521 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to
1522 time amended, the Governor is authorized by the General Assembly to
1523 apply for a waiver of federal eligibility requirements to allow incumbent
1524 workers with annual family incomes that do not exceed two hundred
1525 per cent of the poverty level guidelines issued by the federal
1526 Department of Health and Human Services to receive job training
1527 services.

1528 Sec. 37. Section 31-11t of the general statutes is repealed and the
1529 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1530 (a) The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]

1531 Governor's Workforce Council shall provide each regional workforce
1532 development board with criteria for the evaluation of funded programs,
1533 including a description of the amount, type and effectiveness of literacy
1534 training provided to participants, the number of persons completing job
1535 training, the gender and race of persons who receive training,
1536 occupational skill types, the number of persons who enter unsubsidized
1537 employment, the number of persons who remain in unsubsidized
1538 employment six months later and the earnings received by such
1539 persons.

1540 (b) The [commission] council shall develop an education and job
1541 training report card to assess the accomplishments of Connecticut's
1542 workforce development system and for meeting the accountability
1543 requirements of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
1544 of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended. The report card
1545 shall address the effectiveness of such system in meeting (1) employers'
1546 needs for educated and trained workers, and (2) clients' needs for
1547 improving their economic well-being.

1548 Sec. 38. Subsection (b) of section 31-11ff of the general statutes is
1549 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1550 *2021*):

1551 (b) The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1552 Governor's Workforce Council shall develop, in collaboration with the
1553 Connecticut state colleges and universities, Department of Education,
1554 and regional work force development boards established pursuant to
1555 section 31-3j, a state-wide plan for implementing, expanding or
1556 improving upon career certificate programs established under section
1557 10-20a, middle college programs, early college high school programs
1558 and Connecticut Early College Opportunity programs to provide
1559 education, training and placement in jobs available in the
1560 manufacturing, health care, construction, green, science, technology,
1561 computer science, engineering and mathematics industries and other
1562 emerging sectors of the state's economy. Such plan shall include a
1563 proposal to fund such programs.

1564 Sec. 39. Subsection (b) of section 31-11jj of the general statutes is
1565 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1566 *2021*):

1567 (b) The Workforce Training Authority Fund shall be used by the
1568 administrator: (1) To provide training assistance to eligible recipients as
1569 may be approved by the Workforce Training Authority pursuant to
1570 subsection (e) of this section, and (2) to pay or reimburse the
1571 administrator for administrative costs pursuant to subsection (h) of this
1572 section. Such training assistance shall be awarded for the purpose of:
1573 Developing and implementing training programs for the recruitment of
1574 businesses to the state and the training or retraining of persons in the
1575 state to achieve the workforce goals established by the [Connecticut
1576 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council
1577 and the relevant sections of the strategic master plan for higher
1578 education developed pursuant to section 10a-11b. Training assistance
1579 shall target job growth in the areas of construction, health care, early
1580 childhood education, insurance, financial services, bioscience, advance
1581 manufacturing, digital media, green technology, and tourism.

1582 Sec. 40. Subsection (j) of section 31-11jj of the general statutes is
1583 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1584 *2021*):

1585 (j) The administrator shall consult with the office of apprenticeship
1586 training, the [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1587 Governor's Workforce Council, the Planning Commission on Higher
1588 Education and the administrator of the Connecticut Manufacturing
1589 Innovation Fund to ensure coordination and compatibility of the
1590 development and implementation of training programs awarded by the
1591 Workforce Training Authority.

1592 Sec. 41. Subsection (a) of section 4-124z of the general statutes is
1593 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1594 *2021*):

1595 (a) The Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of Economic and

1596 Community Development, working with the Office of Workforce
1597 [Competitiveness] Strategy, the Commissioners of Education and Social
1598 Services, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the
1599 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, in
1600 consultation with the superintendent of the Technical Education and
1601 Career System and one member of industry representing each of the
1602 economic clusters identified by the Commissioner of Economic and
1603 Community Development pursuant to section 32-1m shall (1) review,
1604 evaluate and, as necessary, recommend improvements for certification
1605 and degree programs offered by the Technical Education and Career
1606 System and the community-technical college system to ensure that such
1607 programs meet the employment needs of business and industry, and (2)
1608 develop strategies to strengthen the linkage between skill standards for
1609 education and training and the employment needs of business and
1610 industry.

1611 Sec. 42. Section 4-124gg of the general statutes is repealed and the
1612 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1613 Not later than October 1, 2012, the Labor Commissioner, with the
1614 assistance of the Office of Workforce [Competitiveness] Strategy and in
1615 consultation with the superintendent of the Technical Education and
1616 Career System, shall create an integrated system of state-wide industry
1617 advisory committees for each career cluster offered as part of the
1618 Technical Education and Career System and regional community-
1619 technical college system. Said committees shall include industry
1620 representatives of the specific career cluster. Each committee for a career
1621 cluster shall, with support from the Labor Department, Technical
1622 Education and Career System, regional community-technical college
1623 system and the Department of Education, establish specific skills
1624 standards, corresponding curriculum and a career ladder for the cluster
1625 which shall be implemented as part of the schools' core curriculum.

1626 Sec. 43. Section 4-124tt of the general statutes is repealed and the
1627 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1628 Within available appropriations, the Office of Workforce

1629 [Competitiveness] Strategy, within the [Labor] Department of Economic
1630 and Community Development, may establish a pilot program to
1631 provide any eligible individual with a minor dependent access to
1632 training in order to obtain skills and credentials necessary to obtain and
1633 maintain employment. Such skills and credentials may include, but
1634 need not be limited to (1) a high school diploma or its equivalent; (2) an
1635 alternative degree; (3) English as a second language training; and (4)
1636 vocational training. For purposes of this section, an eligible individual
1637 is an individual who would qualify for benefits under the temporary
1638 assistance for needy families program pursuant to Title IV-A of the
1639 Social Security Act.

1640 Sec. 44. Section 4-124vv of the general statutes is repealed and the
1641 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1642 The Labor Department, working with [its] the Office of Workforce
1643 [Competitiveness] Strategy, shall, within available appropriations, fund
1644 Connecticut Career Choices.

1645 Sec. 45. Subsection (a) of section 10-21c of the general statutes is
1646 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1647 *2021*):

1648 (a) Any local or regional board of education that has a demonstrated
1649 shortage of certified teachers in those fields designated by the State
1650 Board of Education or that elects to expand the academic offerings to
1651 students in the areas identified by the Labor Commissioner and the
1652 Office of Workforce [Competitiveness] Strategy pursuant to the
1653 provisions of section 4-124w may solicit and accept qualified private
1654 sector specialists, not necessarily certified to teach, whose services to
1655 teach in shortage areas have been donated by business firms, as defined
1656 in section 12-631. Private sector specialists who donate their services
1657 may be permitted to offer instruction in existing or specially designed
1658 curricula, provided no private sector specialist shall be permitted to
1659 work more than one-half of the maximum classroom hours of a full-time
1660 certified teacher, and provided further no private sector specialist
1661 teaching in an area identified by the Labor Commissioner and the Office

1662 of Workforce [Competitiveness] Strategy pursuant to section 4-124w
1663 shall have sole responsibility for a classroom. No certified teacher may
1664 be terminated, transferred or reassigned due to the utilization of any
1665 private sector specialist. Local or regional boards of education shall
1666 annually review the need for private sector specialists and shall not
1667 renew or place a private sector specialist if certified teachers are
1668 available.

1669 Sec. 46. Subsection (a) of section 10-74n of the general statutes is
1670 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1671 *2021*):

1672 (a) The State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Bureau of
1673 Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Developmental Services and
1674 the Office of Workforce [Competitiveness] Strategy, shall: (1)
1675 Coordinate the provision of transition resources, services and programs
1676 to children requiring special education and related services, (2) create,
1677 and update as necessary, a fact sheet that lists the state agencies that
1678 provide transition resources, services and programs and a brief
1679 description of such transition resources, services and programs and
1680 disseminate such fact sheet to local and regional boards of education for
1681 distribution to parents, teachers, administrators and boards of
1682 education, and (3) annually collect information related to transition
1683 resources, programs and services provided by other state agencies and
1684 make such information available to parents, teachers, administrators
1685 and boards of education.

1686 Sec. 47. Subsection (b) of section 10a-19d of the general statutes is
1687 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1688 *2021*):

1689 (b) The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
1690 in consultation with the [Labor Department's] Office of Workforce
1691 [Competitiveness] Strategy, the Department of Education, the
1692 Department of Social Services, Charter Oak State College, early
1693 childhood education faculty at two and four-year public and
1694 independent institutions of higher education, early childhood education

1695 professional associations, early childhood education advocates and
1696 practitioners, and persons knowledgeable in the area of career
1697 development and programs in early childhood care and education, shall
1698 define the preservice and minimum training requirements and
1699 competencies for persons involved in early childhood education, from
1700 birth to five years of age, including requirements for individual levels
1701 of early childhood credentialing and licensing.

1702 Sec. 48. Section 10a-55g of the general statutes is repealed and the
1703 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1704 Not later than July 1, 2020, the Office of Higher Education and the
1705 Labor Department shall each publish on their respective Internet web
1706 sites the career ladder for jobs in the green technology industry
1707 established and updated by the Office of Workforce [Competitiveness]
1708 Strategy in accordance with section 31-3rr, as amended by this act, and
1709 an inventory of green jobs related equipment used by technical
1710 education and career schools and institutions of higher education.

1711 Sec. 49. Section 31-2d of the general statutes is repealed and the
1712 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1713 Any order or regulation of the Office of Workforce [Competitiveness]
1714 Strategy affecting the functions, powers, duties and obligations set forth
1715 in this section and sections 4-124w, as amended by this act, 4-124z, as
1716 amended by this act, 4-124ff, 4-124gg, as amended by this act, 4-124hh,
1717 4-124tt, as amended by this act, and 4-124vv, as amended by this act,
1718 which is in force on July 1, 2011, shall continue in force and effect as an
1719 order or regulation of the [Labor Department] Department of Economic
1720 and Community Development until amended, repealed or superseded
1721 pursuant to law. Where any orders or regulations of said office and said
1722 department conflict, the [Labor] Commissioner of Economic and
1723 Community Development may implement policies and procedures
1724 consistent with the provisions of this section and sections 4-124w, as
1725 amended by this act, 4-124z, as amended by this act, 4-124ff, 4-124gg, as
1726 amended by this act, 4-124hh, 4-124tt, as amended by this act, 4-124vv,
1727 as amended by this act, 10-95h, 10a-11b, 10a-19d, as amended by this

1728 act, 31-3h, as amended by this act, and 31-3k while in the process of
1729 adopting the policy or procedure in regulation form, provided notice of
1730 intention to adopt regulations is printed in the Connecticut Law Journal
1731 not later than twenty days after implementation. The policy or
1732 procedure shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

1733 Sec. 50. Subsection (b) of section 31-3rr of the general statutes is
1734 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1735 *2021*):

1736 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Office of Workforce
1737 [Competitiveness] Strategy, in consultation with the Office of Higher
1738 Education, Department of Education, Labor Department, Department
1739 of Energy and Environmental Protection, regional workforce
1740 development boards and employers, shall, within available
1741 appropriations, establish a career ladder for jobs in the green technology
1742 industry, including, but not limited to, a listing of (1) careers at each
1743 level of the green technology industry and the requisite level of
1744 education and the salary offered for such career, (2) all course, certificate
1745 and degree programs in green jobs offered by technical education and
1746 career schools within the Technical Education and Career System and
1747 institutions of higher education in the state, and (3) jobs available in the
1748 green technology industry in the state. The Office of Workforce
1749 [Competitiveness] Strategy shall update the green jobs career ladder
1750 established pursuant to this section on an as needed basis.

1751 Sec. 51. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 31-3k of the general statutes
1752 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1753 *1, 2021*):

1754 (b) Each board, within its region, shall:

1755 (1) Carry out the duties and responsibilities of a private industry
1756 council under the Job Training Partnership Act, provided the private
1757 industry council within the region elects by a vote of its members to
1758 become a board and the Labor Commissioner approves the council as a
1759 regional work force development board.

1760 (2) Within existing resources and consistent with the state
1761 employment and training information system and any guidelines issued
1762 by the commissioner under subsection (b) of section 31-2, (A) assess
1763 regional needs and identify regional priorities for employment and
1764 training programs, including, but not limited to, an assessment of the
1765 special employment needs of unskilled and low-skilled unemployed
1766 persons, including persons receiving state-administered general
1767 assistance or short-term unemployment assistance, (B) conduct
1768 planning for regional employment and training programs, (C)
1769 coordinate such programs to ensure that the programs respond to the
1770 needs of labor, business and industry, municipalities within the region,
1771 the region as a whole, and all of its citizens, (D) serve as a clearinghouse
1772 for information on all employment and training programs in the region,
1773 (E) prepare and submit an annual plan containing the board's priorities
1774 and goals for regional employment and training programs to the
1775 commissioner and the [commission] council for their review and
1776 approval, (F) review grant proposals and plans submitted to state
1777 agencies for employment and training programs that directly affect the
1778 region to determine whether such proposals and plans are consistent
1779 with the annual regional plan prepared under subparagraph (E) of this
1780 subdivision and inform the [commission] council and each state agency
1781 concerned of the results of the review, (G) evaluate the effectiveness of
1782 employment and training programs within the region in meeting the
1783 goals contained in the annual regional plan prepared under
1784 subparagraph (E) of this subdivision and report its findings to the
1785 commissioner and the [commission] council on an annual basis, (H)
1786 ensure the effective use of available employment and training resources
1787 in the region, and (I) allocate funds where applicable for program
1788 operations in the region.

1789 (3) Provide information to the commissioner concerning (A) all
1790 employment and training programs, grants or funds to be effective or
1791 available in the region in the following program year, (B) the source and
1792 purpose of such programs, grants or funds, (C) the projected amount of
1793 such programs, grants or funds, (D) persons, organizations and
1794 institutions eligible to participate in such programs or receive such

1795 grants or funds, (E) characteristics of clients eligible to receive services
1796 pursuant to such programs, grants or funds, (F) the range of services
1797 available pursuant to such programs, grants or funds, (G) goals of such
1798 programs, grants or funds, (H) where applicable, schedules for
1799 submitting requests for proposals, planning instructions, proposals and
1800 plans, in connection with such programs, grants or funds, (I) the
1801 program period for such programs, grants or funds, and (J) any other
1802 data relating to such programs, grants or funds that the commissioner
1803 or the [commission] council deems essential for effective state planning.

1804 (4) Carry out the duties and responsibilities of the local board for
1805 purposes of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of
1806 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended.

1807 (5) Establish a worker training education committee comprised of
1808 persons from the education and business communities within the
1809 region, including, but not limited to, regional community-technical
1810 colleges and technical education and career schools.

1811 (c) Each board shall make use of grants or contracts with appropriate
1812 service providers to furnish all program services under sections 31-3j to
1813 31-3r, inclusive, unless the [commission] council concurs with the board
1814 that direct provision of a service by the board is necessary to assure
1815 adequate availability of the service or that a service of comparable
1816 quality can be provided more economically by the board. Any board
1817 seeking to provide services directly shall include in the annual regional
1818 plan submitted to the commissioner and the [commission] council
1819 under subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
1820 section its plan to provide services directly and appropriate justification
1821 for the need to do so. When the decision to provide services directly
1822 must be made between annual planning cycles, the board shall submit
1823 to the commissioner and the [commission] council a plan of service and
1824 appropriate justification for the need to provide services directly. Such
1825 plan of service shall be subject to review and approval by the
1826 [commission] council.

1827 Sec. 52. Section 31-3m of the general statutes is repealed and the

1828 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1829 Not later than July 1, 1992, and annually thereafter, the Governor
1830 shall designate appropriate state agencies as agencies involved in
1831 employment and training. The department heads of each agency
1832 involved in employment and training shall: (1) Not later than August
1833 15, 1992, and annually thereafter, identify the employment and training
1834 programs administered by the agency that shall be subject to oversight
1835 by one or more boards under the provisions of sections 31-3j to 31-3r,
1836 inclusive; and (2) provide to the commissioner, for distribution to the
1837 boards through the [commission] council, information concerning (A)
1838 all employment and training programs, grants or funds to be effective
1839 or available in the following program year, (B) the source and purpose
1840 of such programs, grants or funds, (C) the projected amount of such
1841 programs, grants or funds, (D) persons, organizations and institutions
1842 eligible to participate in such programs or receive such grants or funds,
1843 (E) characteristics of clients eligible to receive services pursuant to such
1844 programs, grants or funds, (F) the range of services available pursuant
1845 to such programs, grants or funds, (G) goals of such programs, grants
1846 or funds, (H) where applicable, schedules for submitting requests for
1847 proposals, planning instructions, proposals and plans, in connection
1848 with such programs, grants or funds, (I) the program period for such
1849 programs, grants or funds, and (J) any other data relating to such
1850 programs, grants or funds that the commissioner or the [commission]
1851 council deems essential for effective regional planning.

1852 Sec. 53. Section 31-3n of the general statutes is repealed and the
1853 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1854 (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the [commission] council,
1855 shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to carry out the
1856 provisions of sections 31-3j to 31-3r, inclusive. The regulations shall
1857 establish criteria for the organization and operation of the board and for
1858 ensuring that the membership of each board satisfies the requirements
1859 of section 31-3l.

1860 (b) The commissioner, acting through the [commission] council, shall

1861 facilitate communication and exchange of information between the
1862 boards and state agencies involved in employment and training.

1863 (c) The commissioner shall distribute all information received under
1864 the provisions of sections 31-3j to 31-3r, inclusive, to the [commission]
1865 council in order to ensure that the review and coordination duties of the
1866 [commission] council are effectively carried out.

1867 (d) The commissioner shall submit each annual regional plan
1868 prepared pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection
1869 (b) of section 31-3k, together with the recommendations of the
1870 commissioner and the [commission] council, to the Governor for final
1871 approval.

1872 (e) The commissioner shall approve, in consultation with the
1873 [commission] council, each board established pursuant to section 31-3k
1874 which meets the requirements of sections 31-3j to 31-3r, inclusive.

1875 Sec. 54. Section 31-3o of the general statutes is repealed and the
1876 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1877 (a) The [commission] council shall review and approve each annual
1878 regional plan prepared pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2)
1879 of subsection (b) of section 31-3k.

1880 (b) The [commission] council shall ensure that the membership of
1881 each board satisfies the representation requirements of section 31-3l and
1882 regulations adopted by the commissioner under section 31-3n.

1883 (c) The [commission] council shall review and consider the annual
1884 report of each board evaluating the effectiveness of employment and
1885 training programs, prepared pursuant to subparagraph (G) of
1886 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-3k.

1887 Sec. 55. Section 31-3p of the general statutes is repealed and the
1888 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1889 In any case where a board, after review, determines that a grant

1890 proposal or plan submitted to a state agency involved in employment
 1891 and training is inconsistent with the board's annual regional plan
 1892 prepared pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection
 1893 (b) of section 31-3k, the board shall notify the agency in writing of its
 1894 determination and may request a response from the agency. The agency,
 1895 if so requested, shall respond to the inconsistency noted by the board
 1896 and shall make every effort to resolve the issues involved. If such issues
 1897 cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the board, the board may appeal
 1898 to the [commission] council. The [commission] council shall review the
 1899 subject matter of the appeal and recommend a resolution to the
 1900 commissioner, who shall render an opinion consistent with applicable
 1901 state and federal law.

1902 Sec. 56. Section 31-3q of the general statutes is repealed and the
 1903 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1904 All state employment and training programs shall be consistent with
 1905 any guidelines issued by the commissioner under subsection (b) of
 1906 section 31-2 and the annual plan for the coordination of all employment
 1907 and training programs in the state developed by the [commission]
 1908 council and approved by the Governor under section 31-3h.

1909 Sec. 57. Sections 10a-57a, 10a-57b, 10a-57c and 10a-57e of the general
 1910 statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2021*)

1911 Sec. 58. Section 3 of public act 16-44 is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2021*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-124w
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-34(l)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-35a
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-225a(j)

Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	12-15(b)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	10a-223
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	1-210(b)
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-21j(a)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-95s(a)
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-688h(b)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-688i(c)
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-2(b) and (c)
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3h
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3i
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3j(2)
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3w(b)(1)
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3cc
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3dd
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3ii
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3oo
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3yy
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11m(b)(2)
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11o
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11p
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11q
Sec. 35	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11r
Sec. 36	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11s
Sec. 37	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11t
Sec. 38	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11ff(b)
Sec. 39	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11jj(b)
Sec. 40	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-11jj(j)
Sec. 41	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-124z(a)
Sec. 42	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-124gg
Sec. 43	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-124tt
Sec. 44	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-124vv
Sec. 45	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-21c(a)
Sec. 46	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-74n(a)
Sec. 47	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-19d(b)
Sec. 48	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-55g
Sec. 49	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-2d

Sec. 50	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3rr(b)
Sec. 51	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3k(b) and (c)
Sec. 52	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3m
Sec. 53	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3n
Sec. 54	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3o
Sec. 55	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3p
Sec. 56	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3q
Sec. 57	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	Repealer section
Sec. 58	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	Repealer section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Labor Dept.	GF - Cost	None	314,093
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	None	31,110
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Department of Transportation	TF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Various - Potential Revenue Gain	None	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which creates new programs and policies affecting workforce training, postsecondary education, and public transportation, results in the following fiscal impacts:

Sections 1 and 41-50 eliminate the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) and replace it with an Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS). sHB 6439, the FY 22 and FY 23 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriated \$250,000 in FY 22 and FY 23 to support the functions of the OWS.

Section 2 establishes a new CareerConneCT account in the General

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

Fund to fund workforce training programs. The Governor's proposed bond bill (GB 887) includes \$20 million of new General Obligation bond authorizations in each of FY 22 and FY 23 for the CareerConneCT program. The impact of the proposed change in authorization in GB 887 will be discussed in the relevant bill's fiscal note, if applicable.

Section 8 establishes new reporting requirements for businesses subject to the state's unemployment insurance (UI) law. This results in a cost to the Department of Labor of \$345,203 in FY 23 (including a one-time cost of \$235,000 for a third-party vendor to execute necessary technical upgrades to the UI administration system), \$255,402 in FY 24, and \$481,947 in FY 25. These costs include salary and fringe benefits for various full- and part-time/durational positions to manage/implement the project, as well as associated overhead costs (computers, office supplies, etc.).

Section 11 requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish the CTpass program by January 1, 2022, to allow individuals in an approved class for an eligible organization to use certain public transit services without cost or at a reduced cost. Under this section, DOT may enter into negotiated agreements with eligible organizations, which shall include terms and conditions outlining (1) the amount of compensation or reimbursement deemed necessary by DOT to ensure that transit expenditures do not increase as a result and (2) that the agreements cover any DOT administrative costs incurred in operating the program. This section limits the length of contracts, in part, to ensure that reimbursement rates are sufficient to prevent any DOT expenditure growth. To the extent that these agreements are structured to prevent additional DOT transit or administrative costs, as required in the bill, this section is not expected to result in a cost to DOT.

Section 12 expands, beginning in FY 23, Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) loan eligibility to enrollment in a high-value certificate program that is noncredit and sub-baccalaureate. To the extent that this provision results in an enrollment increase for these programs, the Board of Regents may experience a

potential increase in tuition and fee revenue. In FY 19, 3,670 people received a noncredit, sub-baccalaureate certificate from the Board of Regents (not specific to "high-value" programs).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. The cost impacts to the DOL are limited to FY 25 and earlier, as described above.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 881

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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BACKGROUND

SUMMARY

This bill creates new programs and policies affecting workforce training, postsecondary education, and public transportation as part of a statewide workforce strategy.

Among other things, the bill creates a new Office of Workforce Strategy to develop a statewide workforce strategy and coordinate the (1) funding of workforce training programs and (2) measurement and evaluation of education and workforce development program

outcomes. It also tasks the Office of Higher Education (OHE) with creating a database of credentials offered in Connecticut to promote degrees, certificates, certifications, government licenses, apprenticeships, and job training programs. The bill also adjusts various reporting requirements by higher education institutions and employers to inform the statewide workforce strategy.

The bill also creates a new bulk pass, reduced-rate public transportation program for riders affiliated with certain education and employment training programs (i.e., employees, clients, students, or customers of a training program, alternate route to certification program provider, higher education institution, private occupational school, employer, state or municipal agency, and public nonprofit social service provider).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, unless otherwise noted below.

§§ 1 & 41-50 — OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Eliminates OWC and replaces it with a new OWS, headed by a chief workforce officer; generally transfers to the chief workforce officer the workforce development-related functions and duties currently assigned to the labor commissioner and OWC; and establishes additional duties and reporting requirements

The bill eliminates the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) within the Department of Labor (DOL) and replaces it with a new Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS). The bill places OWS within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for administrative purposes only.

Under the bill, OWS is headed by a chief workforce officer appointed by the governor with confirmation by both the House and Senate. The governor must appoint someone (1) knowledgeable about public sector workforce training programs and (2) with the training and experience to perform the duties described below. The chief workforce officer reports directly to the governor. The bill transfers to the chief workforce officer the workforce development-related functions and duties that are currently assigned to the labor commissioner and OWC, including those described below.

It also makes conforming changes (§§ 57-66).

Chief Workforce Officer's Functions and Duties

Lead Official and Principal Advisor on Workforce Policy. Under current law, DOL serves as the lead state agency for developing employment and training strategies and initiatives needed to support Connecticut's position in the knowledge economy. The DOL commissioner, with OWC's assistance, serves as the governor's principal workforce development policy advisor and the liaison with local, state, and federal workforce development agencies. He coordinates (1) the state's implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) (see BACKGROUND) and (2) state agencies' workforce development activities.

The bill generally transfers these functions and duties to the chief workforce officer, designating him or her as the (1) lead state official for developing employment and training strategies and initiatives and (2) governor's principal advisor for workforce development policy, strategy, and coordination. The bill requires the chief workforce officer to coordinate the state plan, budget, and implementation of WIOA and issue guidance to this effect. He or she must do so on behalf of the governor and Governor's Workforce Council (i.e., currently, also known as the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC); see §§ 17-40 & 51-56 below), and in consultation with the DOL commissioner, who must offer any resources he can make available for this purpose.

Under the bill, the chief workforce officer must additionally serve as the liaison with the Governor's Workforce Council and regional workforce development entities.

Workforce Cabinet. The bill requires the chief workforce officer to chair a Workforce Cabinet comprising the state agencies involved in employment and training. (Existing law requires the governor to designate these agencies and requires their department heads to annually report specified information on the programs offered.) The bill

requires the Workforce Cabinet to meet at the direction of the governor or chief workforce officer.

Governor's Workforce Council. OWS must (1) provide staff support, and any other resources the chief workforce officer can make available, to the Governor's Workforce Council and (2) coordinate all necessary support that the council may need and that other state agencies make available.

State Workforce Strategy. The bill requires the chief workforce officer to develop a state workforce strategy and update it as necessary. The strategy must be developed in consultation with the Governor's Workforce Council and the Workforce Cabinet and approved by the governor.

State and WIOA-Funded Programs. Under the bill, the chief workforce officer must coordinate and align (1) each workforce development activity funded by the state through WIOA funds and (2) any state grant programs administered by, or in collaboration with, a state agency to further the goals and outcomes of the state workforce strategy and the Governor's Workforce Council's workforce development plan.

Public, Legislative, and Local Official Involvement. The bill transfers to the chief workforce officer the requirement to establish systems to ensure the maximum involvement of the public, legislature, and local officials in workforce development policy, strategy, and coordination. In doing so, it eliminates the current requirement that this involvement extend to the state's implementation of WIOA.

Contractual Agreements. The bill transfers to the chief workforce officer the authorization to enter into contractual agreements to carry out OWS's purposes, but it requires him or her to do so in conjunction with one or more state agencies and with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary's approval.

Agency Guidance. The bill requires the chief workforce officer to (1)

issue guidance to state agencies, the Governor's Workforce Council, and regional workforce development boards to further the state workforce strategy and (2) consult with these entities on its implementation. This guidance must (1) comply with state and federal laws, (2) be approved by the OPM secretary, and (3) take effect at least 14 days after OPM approves it.

Other Duties. The chief workforce officer must also:

1. collaborate with the regional workforce development boards to adapt the best practices for workforce development for statewide implementation, if possible;
2. together with state agencies, including DOL, the State Department of Education (SDE), and OPM, coordinate the measurement and evaluation of education and workforce development program outcomes;
3. review the WIOA state plan (which outlines Connecticut's four-year workforce development strategy) for each of the workforce development system's core programs, before the plan is submitted to the governor;
4. market and communicate the state workforce strategy to ensure maximum engagement with students, trainees, job seekers, and businesses, and elevate the state's national workforce profile;
5. identify subject areas, courses, curriculum, content, and programs that may be offered to students in primary and secondary school to improve student outcomes and meet the state's workforce needs (for identifying academic programs for which private sector specialists may donate their teaching services under existing law); and
6. in consultation with DOL, coordinate with regional workforce development boards and community action agencies to ensure compliance with state and federal laws in order to expand the service capabilities of programs offered under WIOA and the

U.S. DOL's American Job Center system.

Workforce Data

Current law authorizes DOL, with OWC's assistance, to ask any state office, department, board, commission, or agency to provide reports, information, and assistance that is necessary or appropriate for DOL to carry out its duties and requirements. The bill (1) transfers this authorization to the chief workforce officer; (2) expands it by allowing him or her to request data, in addition to reports, information, and assistance, from these agencies and entities; and (3) explicitly allows the officer to make the requests to public colleges and universities. However, the bill requires that any data requests from an agency participating in CP20 WIN be submitted through CP20 WIN according to its established policies and procedures (see BACKGROUND).

Annual Report to the Legislature

Each year, beginning by October 1, 2022, the bill requires the chief workforce officer to submit a report on the states' workforce development to the governor and Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Education, Commerce, and Labor and Public Employees committees. At a minimum, the report must include information on OWS's programs and the number, demographics, and outcomes of people they serve.

The bill also eliminates the current requirement that DOL annually report to the legislature on its two- and five-year forecast of workforce shortages by occupation.

§ 2 — CAREERCONNECT ACCOUNT

Establishes a new CareerConneCT account in the General Fund to fund workforce training programs; requires the chief workforce officer to report to the legislature and governor on these programs and the individuals they served

The bill establishes the "CareerConneCT account" as a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account and requires DECD to use it to fund workforce training programs that OWS recommends. The bill requires the account to contain any moneys the law requires to be deposited in it. (SB 887 of the current session authorizes \$20 million in general

obligation bonds in each year of the next biennium for CareerConneCT workforce training programs.)

Under the bill, the chief workforce officer, in coordination with the DOL commissioner and regional workforce development boards, must ensure that participants in any workforce training program funded through the CareerConneCT account also enroll in any federally funded workforce development program.

Annually, beginning by October 1, 2022, and ending October 1, 2024, the chief workforce officer must report to the governor and Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Education, Commerce, Labor and Public Employees committees on the workforce training programs funded through this account. The report must, at a minimum, provide information on the number, demographics, and outcomes of the individuals served by these programs.

§§ 3 & 4 — CREDENTIALS DATABASE

Requires OHE to create a database of the credentials offered in Connecticut; beginning by July 1, 2024, requires specified institutions and training providers to submit information about the credentials they offer to be included in the database; requires OWS to establish standards to designate certain credentials as “credentials of value”

Credentials Database

By January 1, 2023, OHE’s executive director, in consultation with the advisory council described below, must create a database of the credentials offered in Connecticut. Under the bill, a “credential” is a documented award issued by an authorized body. It includes the following:

1. degrees or certificates awarded by colleges and universities, private occupational schools, or State Board of Education (SBE)-approved alternate route to certification (ARC) program providers;
2. certifications awarded through an examination process designed to demonstrate that an individual has the knowledge, skill, and ability to perform a specific job;

3. government licenses that allow someone to practice a specific occupation based on predetermined qualifications; and
4. documented completion of an apprenticeship or job training program.

The database must explain the skills and competencies earned through a credential in uniform terms and plain language. In creating the database, the executive director must use the (1) minimum data policy established by the New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) High Value Credentials for New England initiative and (2) uniform terms, descriptions, and standards for comparing and linking credentials in Credential Engine's Credential Transparency Description Language-Achievement Standards Network (see BACKGROUND).

The database must, at a minimum, include the following data for each credential:

1. name and type of credential being offered and its credential status type (i.e., active, deprecated, probationary, or superseded);
2. entity that owns or offers the credential;
3. a short description of the credential and the language in which it is offered;
4. a website that provides related information;
5. estimated cost and duration for completion;
6. the industry related to the credential, which may include its code under the North American Industry Classification System;
7. the occupation related to the credential (e.g., its North American Industry Classification code or U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics standard occupational classification system code); and
8. a listing of online or physical locations where it is offered.

Advisory Council

The bill establishes a council to advise the OHE executive director on the database's implementation. The advisory council must include the state's chief data officer and representatives from OWS, OHE, OPM, DOL, SDE, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, UConn, and independent higher education institutions. The chief workforce officer, chief data officer, and OHE executive director, or their designees, must cochair the council, appoint its members, and schedule meetings.

Requirement to Submit Credential Information

Annually, beginning by July 1, 2024, the bill requires specified institutions and training providers to submit information about the credentials they offer to be included in the database. Specifically, this requirement applies to each higher education institution, private occupational school, SBE-approved ARC program provider, and training program provider listed on DOL's Eligible Training Provider List, excluding any state agencies or departments.

Each of these entities must submit the information in the form and manner the OHE executive director prescribes, including the data described above. Higher education institutions, however, may omit the industry code data for any credentials for which it is not applicable.

The bill also authorizes DOL, in consultation with the advisory council, to require any pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program sponsor to submit information about its program to OHE for inclusion in the database.

Credentials of Value

The bill requires OWS to establish standards to designate certain credentials as "credentials of value." These standards may include (1) meeting the workforce needs of Connecticut's employers, (2) enrollment and completion rates, (3) net cost, (4) whether the credential transfers to or stacks onto another credential of value, (5) duration until completion, and (6) types of employment opportunities and earnings available upon completion.

OWS must compile and annually update its list of credentials of value and include it in the database.

§§ 5 & 6 — HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM APPROVALS

Allows eligible higher education institutions to apply to OWS for additional program approval exemptions beyond those allowed under current law; terminates reporting requirements for BOR and BOT on new programs and program changes they approve for their respective institutions

Current law exempts qualifying independent colleges and universities from OHE's approval process for up to 12 new higher education programs per academic year and any modifications to their existing programs. Institutions qualify for this exemption if they:

1. are eligible to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan program;
2. have a financial responsibility score of at least 1.5, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education (this score reflects the overall relative financial health of institutions); and
3. have been located in Connecticut and accredited as a degree-granting institution in good standing for at least 10 years by a federally recognized regional accrediting association.

The bill allows these eligible institutions to apply to OWS for additional exemptions beyond the 12 per academic year allowed under current law. OWS may waive the program approval requirement for any new program if it determines that the program aligns with and furthers the goals of the state workforce strategy approved by the governor.

The bill terminates, on June 30, 2024, the requirement that these exempt institutions annually file with OHE a list and description of any new programs introduced, and any existing programs discontinued, in the preceding academic year. As under existing law, the institutions must continue to annually file their (1) program approval process and all actions their respective governing boards took concerning new program approvals, and (2) financial responsibility composite score.

The bill also terminates, as of June 30, 2024, the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and UConn Board of Trustees (BOT) reports to OHE on the new programs and program changes they approved. (In doing so, however, it retains an existing requirement that BOR notify OHE of new and modified programs.) By law, BOR reviews and approves recommendations to establish new academic programs for the universities within the Connecticut State University System, the community colleges, and Charter Oak State College, and BOT does so for UConn.

§ 7 — PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOL AND ARC PROGRAM STUDENT DATA

Requires each private occupational school and ARC program provider to submit specified data to OHE on each of their enrolled students; prohibits OHE from releasing to the public any of this identifiable student information

By January 1, 2023, the bill requires each private occupational school and SBE-approved ARC program provider to submit to OHE specified data on each of their enrolled students. The data must include course enrollment; course and credential completion; fees and tuition charged; federal student loans received; federal student loan balances; and state-assigned student identifiers, if applicable. (By law, SDE assigns a unique student identifier to each student to track his or her performance in the public school information system.) The schools and providers must submit this data in the form and manner OHE prescribes.

The bill prohibits OHE from releasing to the public any identifiable student information provided by these schools and providers. OHE must establish policies to protect this information as if it were protected student data subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

§ 8 — QUARTERLY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYERS

Requires employers subject to the state's unemployment law to report certain data about each employee in their quarterly wage reports to DOL; requires personally identifiable employee data to be kept confidential, but allows nonidentifiable data to be shared for specified purposes

Expanded Reporting Requirement

The bill requires employers subject to the state's unemployment law to report specified data about each employee in their quarterly wage reports to DOL. Specifically, employers must report the following data for each employee:

1. gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, disability status, and highest education completed;
2. home address and address of primary work site;
3. occupational code under the BLS standard occupational classification system;
4. hours and days worked and salary or hourly wage; and
5. employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable, employment end date.

The DOL commission may issue guidance defining each of these data fields. The bill phases in these reporting requirements, based on the employer's number of employees, as follows:

1. beginning with the third quarter of 2024 for employers with 100 or more employees;
2. beginning with the third quarter of 2025 for employers with 99 or fewer employees, except as provided below; and
3. beginning in the third quarter of 2027 for employers with 49 or fewer employees that do not have an electronic payroll system.

The bill states that these provisions may not be construed to require employees to provide information on their gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, or veteran or disability status, if these disclosures are not otherwise required by law.

Electronic Report Submissions and Waivers

The bill allows employers to request a waiver from the electronic reporting requirement for the employee data described above, just as

existing law allows them to do for electronic wage reports and reimbursements. As under existing law, employers, or their agents, may submit a written request for a waiver on a DOL-prescribed form at least 30 days before the report is due. The DOL commissioner must grant the request if, based on the information the employer or agent submits, he finds that the requirement would cause an undue hardship. The commissioner must promptly notify the employer or agent of his decision, which cannot be further reviewed or appealed. A waiver is good for one year.

The bill also makes a minor change to the electronic reporting requirement for the quarterly wage reports.

Confidentiality of Employee Data

The bill prohibits the DOL commissioner from releasing to the public any identifiable employee information provided by employers under the bill's reporting requirement. But it allows him or the department to share nonidentifiable information (1) with another state agency, state or territory, or the federal government, or (2) to support a CP20 WIN data request, submitted according to CP20 WIN's policies and procedures, for program administration, audit, evaluation, or research purposes.

§ 9 — DISCLOSURE OF TAX RETURN INFORMATION FOR CP20 WIN DATA REQUESTS

Authorizes DRS to release tax return information for evaluation or research purposes under specified conditions

The bill authorizes the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) commissioner, to the extent allowed by federal law, to disclose tax return information for evaluation or research purposes to (1) another state agency or (2) support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN, in accordance with CP20 WIN's policies and procedures.

By law, "return information" includes:

1. a taxpayer's identity;
2. the nature, source, or amount of the taxpayer's income, payments, receipts, deductions, exemptions, credits, assets,

liabilities, net worth, tax liability, tax collected or withheld, tax under- or over-reportings, or tax payments; and

3. any other data received, recorded, prepared, or collected by or furnished to the DRS commissioner regarding (a) a return or (b) a determination of liability for a tax, penalty, interest, fine, forfeiture, or other imposition or offense (CGS § 12-15(h)(2)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

§ 10 — RECORDS PROTECTION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Prohibits the sharing of student financial aid applications with federal immigration authorities

The bill prohibits several individuals and entities from sharing, disclosing, or otherwise making accessible to any federal immigration authority records or information obtained from an institutional aid application for undocumented students. These individuals and entities are officers, employees, or agents of a department, board, commission, public higher education institution, or any other state agency; or any officer, employee, or agent of a local or regional board of education.

§ 11 — CTPASS PROGRAM

Establishes the Ctpass program by January 1, 2022, to allow certain individuals in an approved class to use certain public transit services for free or at low cost

The bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish the Ctpass program by January 1, 2022, to allow certain individuals in an approved class to use certain public transit services without cost or at low cost. These individuals are employees, clients, students, or customers of a training program, alternate route to certification program provider, higher education institution, private occupational school, employer, state or municipal agency, and public nonprofit social service provider. DOT must post information regarding the program on its website in a manner that, in the commissioner's view, will maximize awareness and participation by the greatest number of eligible organizations.

Under the bill, these eligible organizations may submit to the DOT

commissioner an application to participate in CTpass. The commissioner may then negotiate terms and conditions and enter into a contract with the organization. The terms and conditions must include (1) the amount of compensation or reimbursement required from the eligible organization, (2) the definition of approved class specific to the eligible organization, and (3) any limitations on times of use or types of public transit services available to the approved class. The compensation or reimbursement negotiated in the contract must be in an amount that the commissioner finds necessary or advisable, as long as it ensures that DOT's transit service expenditures do not increase due to administrative costs incurred operating the program.

The bill requires that a contract under the CTpass program be valid upon OPM's approval for a maximum two-year term; however, the first contract with an eligible organization must not exceed 12 months. Before renewing a contract with an eligible operator, the DOT commissioner must consider the following to re-evaluate the required compensation or reimbursement amount: (1) prior pass usage information and (2) any transit services expenditure increases incurred by DOT. The bill allows the commissioner to treat several eligible operators as a single eligible organization for contract purposes under the program.

By January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the bill requires the DOT commissioner to report to the OPM secretary on the financial data and pass usage information for each contract under the CTpass program.

§§ 12 & 13 — CHESLA LOAN AND AWARD ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Allows certain students or their parents to take out student loans and receive certain financial aid with CHESLA to enroll in certificate programs and requires CHESLA to establish an account to fund and operate certain loans

The bill allows (1) students enrolled in a Connecticut "high-value certificate program" or their parents to take out student loans with the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) and (2) these students to receive grants, scholarships, fellowships, or other non-repayable assistance from CHESLA. Under

the bill, a “high value certificate program” is a non-credit, subbaccalaureate certificate program offered by a higher education institution or a private occupational school that OWS designates as a “credential of value” (see § 4). A “Connecticut high-value certificate program” is a high-value certificate program offered by a higher education institution or private occupational school in the state.

Additionally, the bill requires CHESLA to establish the Certificate Loan Loss Reserve and Funding account. This separate, nonlapsing account must contain any funds required by law to be deposited in it, including state appropriations or bonds sale proceeds. CHESLA must spend these funds to (1) fund loans that it issues to a borrower to finance Connecticut high-value certificate program enrollment, (2) cover any losses CHESLA incurs from issuing these loans and reasonable and necessary expenses for administering these loans, and (3) cover any initial implementation expenses before the loans’ origination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, for the CHESLA account provision and October 1, 2022, for the loan provision.

§ 14 — CREDENTIALS AND SKILLS REPORT

Requires the chief workforce officer to submit a biennial report on certain credentials and skills, starting by September 1, 2022

By September 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter until September 1, 2028, the bill requires the chief workforce officer to submit to the governor and BOR a report on in-demand credentials and skills that lead to quality jobs.

§ 15 — WORKFORCE TRAINING AND CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Requires the chief workforce officer, correction and labor commissioners, and OPM undersecretary for criminal justice, to report their recommendations for improving workforce training and credential attainment for incarcerated individuals

By February 1, 2023, the bill requires the chief workforce officer, together with the correction and labor commissioners and OPM undersecretary for criminal justice, to report on recommendations to improve workforce training and credential attainment for individuals incarcerated by the Department of Correction. They must (1)

recommend whether credential attainment should be a factor for early release and (2) identify in-demand credentials and skills that lead to quality jobs and any barriers to equitably accessing those jobs.

They must submit the report to the governor, OPM secretary, and the Judiciary, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Labor, and Commerce committees.

§ 16 — FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT EXEMPTIONS

Exempts specified student and employee records from disclosure under FOIA

The bill exempts the following from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):

1. any information reported to an executive branch agency by a higher education institution, private occupational school, or other training or certificate program providers about applicants or enrolled students, including enrollment, program completion, student loan, or other financial aid information;
2. any employee information provided to DOL by an employer under the bill's expanded quarterly reporting requirement (see § 8);
3. FAFSA records or information;
4. any records pertaining to institutional financial aid for students without legal immigration status; and
5. admission applications to higher education institutions held by any department, board, commission, public college or university, state agency, or board of education and any materials that are not otherwise protected from disclosure under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

§§ 17-40 & 51-56 — GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Renames the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission the Governor's Workforce Council

The bill renames the Connecticut Employment and Training

Commission (CETC) the Governor's Workforce Council, thus aligning the statutes to Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 4. It makes related conforming changes throughout the statutes.

Executive Order No. 4, signed by the governor on October 29, 2019, requires CETC to also be known as the Governor's Workforce Council and, among other things, designates the council as the governor's principal advisor on workforce development issues. It required the council to convene a group of stakeholders and review and report on the state's workforce development system.

§§ 57 & 58 — REPEALERS

Repeals certain laws on certificate programs

The bill repeals the following laws about certificate programs:

1. definitions related to the programs (CGS § 10a-57a);
2. requirements for higher education institutions and private occupational schools to submit, collect, and compile data about certificate programs (CGS § 10a-57b);
3. the requirement that OHE develop and post online a one-page fact sheet for each subbaccalaureate certificate program offered by each higher education institution and private occupational school in the state (CGS § 10a-57c);
4. the requirement that OHE annually review a sample of student data for all for-credit and noncredit subbaccalaureate certificate programs offered by higher education institutions and private occupational schools (CGS § 10a-57e); and
5. the requirement that BOR formulate written definitions for all subbaccalaureate certificates earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis and awarded by Connecticut higher education institutions and private occupational schools (PA 16-44, § 3).

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The Senate referred the bill (File 327) to the Education Committee, which reported a substitute that removed the following provisions from the bill:

1. requiring reports from certain school districts explaining their decision not to utilize the community eligibility provision of the National School Lunch Program;
2. creating new contents and sharing requirements for student success plans;
3. adding computer science to the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subject listings in the public high school graduation requirements;
4. establishing new parameters for student placement in high-level courses by boards of education;
5. creating a pilot program that allows student enrollment in UConn early college experience courses without prerequisites;
6. requiring each board of education to adopt a challenging curriculum policy for K-12 students;
7. requiring completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as a condition for high school graduation;
8. increasing the number of credits required to earn an adult education diploma;
9. raising the age when a student may withdraw from high school;
10. requiring the education commissioner and OWS to recommend strategies to state agencies, boards, and legislative committees to encourage students to pursue postsecondary education;
11. requiring boards of education to update their weighted grading policies;

12. creating the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program for admission to the four Connecticut state universities; and
13. requiring boards of education to calculate a grade point average and class rank percentile for grade 11 students using a uniform, BOR-approved method to determine eligibility for the automatic admissions program.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WIOA provides federal funds to states for a range of career services, job training, education, and related services and supports. It authorizes six core programs, including the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs. The law requires each state to submit a state plan that outlines a four-year strategy for the state's workforce development system.

CP20 WIN

CP20 WIN (i.e., the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network) provides a framework and mechanism for securely sharing longitudinal data across participating agencies. It is designed to provide information to education, workforce, and agency staff and leaders to help improve education and workforce outcomes.

Requests for data from CP20 WIN must be for conducting an audit or evaluation of a federally or state-funded education program and benefit a local or state education authority or agency. Requests must also comply with existing state and federal limitations on sharing education and unemployment wage data.

NEBHE's High Value Credentials for New England

NEBHE's High Value Credentials for New England initiative was designed to provide individuals, institutions, policymakers, and employers with the tools to compare and evaluate credential programs and understand the skills and competencies obtained by earning a credential. The initiative includes a cloud-based Credential Registry that houses, organizes, and links credential information. The minimum data

policy establishes the fields that make up the credential profiles in the registry.

Credential Engine

Credential Engine is a nonprofit organization that provides web-based services for creating a centralized credential registry. Its Credential Transparency Description Language provides a common set of terms for defining credentials, credentialing organizations, quality assurance bodies, and competencies.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 3 (03/22/2021)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 2 (05/03/2021)