



General Assembly

Proposed Bill No. 188

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 462



Referred to Committee on GENERAL LAW

Introduced by:
SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN LICENSED OCCUPATIONS.

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

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) Require each state agency
- 2 responsible for issuing a credential to report to the Secretary of the
- 3 Office of Policy and Management on the extent such credential may be
- 4 issued or renewed online not later than July 1, 2022, (2) require the Labor
- 5 Department to issue last-year identification cards to qualified registered
- 6 apprentices who have completed seventy-five per cent of their required
- 7 work experience and instruction in the electrical, plumbing, heating,
- 8 piping and cooling, sprinkler fitter or sheet metal work trades, (3) allow
- 9 any initial or didactic training or continuing instruction required to
- 10 obtain or renew a credential to be completed via the Internet or distance
- 11 learning, (4) require the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental
- 12 Loan Authority to submit a report, not later than November 1, 2021, on
- 13 financing opportunities for residents pursuing postsecondary
- 14 occupational education and recommendations for the use of income-
- 15 based repayment in financing programs, (5) require agencies that issue

16 occupational credentials to review and make recommendations to
17 reduce or eliminate barriers to participation, (6) allow the Department
18 of Consumer Protection to deny or issue a building trade license
19 pursuant to a consent order if the commissioner determines the
20 applicant is guilty of a felony, and (7) require occupational credentials
21 to be issued, under certain circumstances, to a person who (A)
22 establishes Connecticut residency, or (B) is married to an active duty
23 member of the United States armed forces or accompanied such member
24 to a Connecticut military installation.

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce barriers to occupational licensure by encouraging the utilization of and supporting apprenticeship programs in the building trades.