



**Substitute House Bill No. 6755**

**Special Act No. 23-4**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING EDUCATION CENTER WORKING GROUP.**

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to facilitate the expansion of an advanced manufacturing technology center at a regional community-technical college in the state, and to maximize the economic, educational and workforce benefits provided to the state by the center.

(1) The working group shall develop an implementation plan concerning the budget of, timeline for and the state, federal and private sector funding mechanisms for the following:

(A) Completing the necessary infrastructure at the center;

(B) Establishing an Industry 4.0 manufacturing technology career pathway model that may be duplicated at secondary and regional community-technical college level institutions throughout the state;

(C) Establishing sustainable public-private partnerships to provide the latest equipment, training and apprenticeship opportunities for students and instructors;

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(D) Establishing a community robotics center at the advanced manufacturing technology center to support program awareness, enrollment and community involvement;

(E) Establishing, in underserved communities in municipalities with populations of at least seventy thousand, robotics programs to engage students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, in team-based and mentor-based science, technology, engineering and mathematics events and competitions; and

(F) Incorporating mechanisms to maximize opportunities for traditionally underserved communities.

(2) The plan shall include metrics to measure success, including, but not limited to, key performance indicators and targets for each part of the implementation plan described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The working group may utilize industry partners, employers, association boards, classroom teachers of students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, and others to develop the plan.

(b) The working group members shall be appointed by the cochairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, and shall consist of the following members:

(1) A representative of the Office of Workforce Strategy, who has experience as an executive director at an advanced manufacturing technology center and a demonstrated interest in developing a diverse technical workforce;

(2) The chief executive officer of a regional community-technical college system where an advanced manufacturing technology center may be located;

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(3) An associate dean of an advanced manufacturing technology program of the regional community-technical college system;

(4) An experienced coordinator of counseling and career pathways for a public school system, consisting of grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, in a municipality in the state;

(5) A professor of robotics and mechatronics from a university within the Connecticut State University System;

(6) An associate dean of an advanced manufacturing program at a regional community-technical college in the state;

(7) An individual who is a current or former representative of a state-wide business organization and who is experienced in collaborating with manufacturers, manufacturing organizations, regional vocational-technical schools and regional community-technical colleges in the state;

(8) A technical talent development advisor from an Industry 4.0 manufacturing technology company in the state; and

(9) At least three members of the manufacturing industry.

(c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall select the cochairpersons of the working group from among the members of the working group. Such cochairpersons of the working group shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(e) Not later than January 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general

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statutes, on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, education and higher education and employment advancement. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

Approved June 13, 2023