
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6549

AN ACT CONCERNING MODIFICATION OF AND REPEALING OBSOLETE PROVISIONS AND STATUTES RELEVANT TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

SUMMARY

This bill repeals various laws related to the State Department of Labor (DOL).

It repeals a requirement that the labor commissioner annually submit, by November 15 to the Education, Labor, and Higher Education and Workforce Advancement committees, information about economic trends, occupational information, and emerging workforce trends. Relatedly, it modifies the information that the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) executive director must annually submit to the same committees by this date. Under current law, the executive director must submit, among other things, information ensuring the CTECS curriculum is incorporating the workforce skills needed for the next 10 years that the labor commissioner identifies in her submission to the committees. The bill eliminates the reference to the commissioner's submission and replaces it with the skills needed for future workforce development (§ 1).

Additionally, the bill repeals the law establishing the Individual Development Account (IDA) Program within DOL and requiring the department to provide matching funds for the participants. Under current law, the program allows people from low-income households to establish an account to save funds for specific reasons stated in law, including (1) buying a home, (2) paying for education or job training, or (3) starting a business (§ 10). The bill also makes several conforming changes, including repealing provisions in current law (1) requiring the housing commissioner to provide matching grants to fund purchases of primary residences, (2) making contributions to the IDA Reserve Fund

eligible for certain corporation business tax credits, and (3) allowing a personal income tax deduction for interest earned on funds deposited in an IDA (§§ 5-9).

The bill also repeals several laws relating to DOL's enforcement authority that generally are obsolete or covered by other laws. For example, it repeals a law setting a minimum standard for worker bathroom accommodations at certain tobacco farms and another that addresses reporting serious accidents in workplaces, which are covered under CONN-OSHA (Connecticut Occupational Health and Safety Act, CGS § 31-367 et seq.) or federal OSHA (§§ 4 & 10).

Lastly, the bill (1) repeals obsolete language concerning information the labor commissioner must collect (§ 2) and an obsolete payroll card usage study (§ 3) and (2) makes technical changes (§ 1).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/28/2023)