
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1197

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes in laws related to education, occupational training, and workforce development. Specifically, it does the following:

1. allows local or regional boards of education (i.e., “boards of education”) to partner with local businesses to provide aerospace and aviation apprenticeship training programs to students (§ 1);
2. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) commissioner, by January 1, 2024, and in consultation with the School Paraeducator Advisory Council, to develop a model paraeducator training program for high school students (§ 2);
3. requires boards of education to annually distribute information on specified vocational, technical, technological, and postsecondary education school options to middle school students (§ 3);
4. requires SDE, by January 1, 2024, to establish a pre-apprenticeship grant program for boards of education that include Department of Labor (DOL)-registered pre-apprenticeship programs in their high school curriculum (§ 4);
5. requires SDE, in partnership with boards of education and public higher education institutions, to expand opportunities for dual credit and dual enrollment for high school students, including courses required for health care occupations (§ 5); and
6. requires the Technical Education and Career System (TECS) executive director to convene a working group to determine the

feasibility, cost, and plan to develop an aerospace advanced manufacturing high school (§ 6).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except that the provision convening the aerospace advanced manufacturing high school working group takes effect upon passage.

§§ 1 & 6 — AEROSPACE AND AVIATION TRAINING

Aviation and Aerospace Apprenticeship Training Program (§ 1)

The bill allows a board of education to partner with local employers in the aviation or aerospace industry to develop and offer an apprenticeship training program for students within its school district.

Under the bill, the apprenticeship training program must give students (1) on-site training where they learn immediate job skills and earn course credits, (2) information on the CT Aero Tech School for Aviation Maintenance Technicians' educational programs, and (3) help completing the school's admissions application.

The bill requires a board of education that offers this apprenticeship program to start annually reporting to the Education Committee within 60 days after the first student cohort completes the program. The report must include the number of students who (1) participated in and completed the program and (2) enrolled in the CT Aero Tech School for Aviation Maintenance Technicians after doing so.

Aerospace Advanced Manufacturing High School Working Group (§ 6)

The bill requires the TECS executive director to convene a working group to determine the feasibility, cost, and plan to develop an aerospace advanced manufacturing high school.

Under the bill, the executive director must serve as the working group's chairperson and appoint its members, which must at least include representatives of (1) the Governor's Workforce Council, (2) the Department of Economic and Community Development, and (3) business and community organizations related to the aerospace industry.

The bill requires the executive director to report the working group's conclusions and recommendations to the Education Committee by January 1, 2024.

§ 2 — MODEL PARAEDUCATOR TRAINING PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The bill requires the SDE commissioner, by January 1, 2024, and in consultation with the School Paraeducator Advisory Council, to (1) develop a model program for paraeducator training for students in grades nine through 12 that would qualify them to work as paraeducators after graduating from high school and (2) distribute the program to each board of education.

The bill allows boards of education to adopt the program. After doing so, they must report to the Education Committee within one year on the number of students who (1) participated and completed the program by grade and (2) found employment as a paraeducator after graduation.

§ 3 — DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON SCHOOL OPTIONS

Under current law, each board of education must require its school counselors to give information to middle and high school students and their parents on the availability of (1) vocational, technical, technological, and postsecondary education and training at technical education and career schools and (2) agricultural science and technology education at regional agricultural science and technology education centers

The bill requires each board of education to also annually distribute this information to middle school students.

§ 4 — HIGH SCHOOL PRE-APPRENTICESHIP GRANT PROGRAM

The bill requires SDE to establish a pre-apprenticeship grant program by January 1, 2024. Under the program, the department must award grants to any board of education that incorporates a pre-apprenticeship program in its curriculum for grades nine through 12, as long as the program is registered with DOL and meets any related criteria the department establishes.

The bill requires SDE, starting by January 1, 2025, to annually report to the Education Committee on the grant program, including the amount of grants awarded and types of pre-apprenticeship programs students completed during the prior year.

§ 5 — EXPANSION OF DUAL CREDIT AND DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

The bill requires SDE to expand dual credit and dual enrollment opportunities for students in grades nine through 12 in various subject areas, including required courses to pursue health care occupations. The department must do this (1) within available funding limits and (2) in partnership with boards of education and public and independent higher education institutions.

Under the bill, SDE must include the following in the expanded opportunities:

1. new resources, such as an online inventory of dual credit and dual enrollment programs, and model agreements to promote information sharing between boards of education and higher education institutions;
2. support for teacher and faculty curriculum development and professional development to create new career pathways for in-demand industries, such as health care; and
3. tuition assistance for students who enroll in dual credit and dual enrollment programs.

The bill requires SDE to report to the Education Committee on its efforts to expand dual credit and dual enrollment opportunities by January 1, 2024.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 44 Nay 0 (03/24/2023)