

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6354

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN JOBS CORPS PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/7/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/2/2023

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,
Representative Johnson, 143rd District,
Representative Chafee, 33rd District,
Representative Elliot, 88th District,
Senator Duff, 25th District,
Senator Maher, 26th District,
Representative Nolan, 39th District,
Senator Gaston, 23rd District,
Representative Mushinsky, 85th District

REASONS FOR BILL:

The purpose of this bill is to establish a green jobs corps program that would identify a talent development strategy for communities to address the impacts of climate change and reduce carbon emissions. To achieve this, the bill requires the Chief Workforce Officer and relevant agencies to collaborate and provide an annual report to the General Assembly on the progress of the green jobs' workforce training plan. The bill is in response to the growing demand for the State to take significant action to address the consequences of climate change. The proposals outlined in the bill would ensure the development of the State's green technology industry and workforce by implementing green job work-based learning, certification, and degree programs that target green industries facing workforce shortages. These programs could be offered at career schools and institutions of higher education. The plan developed would be required to meet the new greenhouse gas emissions targets outlined in subsection (a) of section 22a31 200a.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The amendment substitutes references to "apprenticeship" programs with "work-based learning" programs and adds line 40, "especially from underrepresented populations" to modify recruitment practices for newly developed green job programs.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[CT Labor Department \(CTDOL\), Commissioner, Dante Bartolomeo](#): appreciates the intent of this legislation to establish a green job corps program to outline a talent development strategy, help communities respond to climate change and reduce carbon emissions. It is stated that CTDOL's office already offers an Apprenticeship Training program that operates a workforce development system including all the requirements proposed in this bill, including Registered Apprenticeships. It is also stated that CTDOL would gladly participate in any conversations with the Office of Workforce Strategy and any other sister agency or interested parties. It is also stated that CTDOL requests the removal of the bill's reference to "apprenticeship(s)" to prevent confusion between what would be state-sponsored trainee program, and CTDOL's federally recognized Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

**The adopted amendment addresses the agency's concern.*

[Office of Workforce Strategy \(OWS\), Chief Workforce Officer, Kelli-Marie Vallieres](#): opposes this bill because the Office of Workforce Strategy is already involved in substantial efforts to address climate change and reduce carbon emissions. It is stated that OWS provides the CareerConnect program, which is funded through ARPA dollars to offer 19 competitive grants to workforce boards, community-based organizations throughout the State to provide training for in-demand fields. It is further stated that OWS is working with DEEP and DECD to launch the Connecticut Clean Economy Council, which was created by Executive Order 21-3 in 2022. It is also stated, given the current efforts towards green job development, OWS believes that this bill proposes programs that are already underway, and they do not recommend any additional activities be assigned to the Clean Economy Council.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[CT Roundtable on Climate, Executive Director, Aziz Dehkan](#): supports this bill because the clean technology sector is rapidly expanding and transitioning to a cleaner economy built on energy efficiency, renewable energy and beneficial electrification will benefit the environment, improve public health, reduce energy cost, and improve the State's energy independence. It is stated that this bill would accelerate the training of the State's residents for green jobs, which are going to become more prevalent as the need for climate change mitigation increases. It was also stated that workforce development planning and investments identify barriers to training and employment and address those barriers to promote equity in green job training programs.

[Ledyard High School, Student, April Chahmirian](#): is in support of this bill. It is stated over the span of 70 years the degrees in Fahrenheit have increase and the reason this is occurring is humans have altered the climate by frequent and excessive fossil fuel burning. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we are securing a better future for Connecticut.

[Ledyard High School, Student, Julia Fernandes](#): is in support of this bill. It is stated that research has shown the climate change had already negatively affected the air and drinking

water. If we start to enforce simple changes to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we would be a step closer to a safer future.

[Norwalk Community College, Faculty, Patricia Baird](#); supports this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

See agency response.

Reported by: Kelly Houston

Date: 3/15/2023