
OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 6384

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

SUMMARY:

This bill transfers administration of the state's apprenticeship program from the Labor Department (DOL) to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and makes corresponding technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 1-4, & 8 - TRANSFER OF CERTAIN DOL FUNCTIONS

The bill substitutes the DECD commissioner for the DOL commissioner in a number of statutes in order to transfer certain responsibilities. Specifically, it requires the DECD commissioner to:

1. determine which federal requirements about on-the-job training schedules will be used to evaluate apprentice agreements;
2. chair the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council and annually report to the Governor on the council's activities;
3. develop, in consultation with the council, work training standards for apprentices;
4. publish information on existing and proposed apprenticeship standards, hold area conferences to promote interest in skilled trades training, and appoint advisory committees to evaluate the state's skilled labor requirements;
5. appoint DECD personnel to administer the apprenticeship training program; and

6. establish and implement an apprentice program for child day care workers with the support of the Department of Social Services.

§ 5 – FEES

The bill requires any apprenticeship program registration and renewal fees to be paid to DECD instead of DOL. (Fee amounts remained unchanged.) It requires half of all fees collected by DECD to be deposited in the General Fund, and half in a separate nonlapsing appropriation to DECD for the program's administration.

§§ 6 & 7 – REGULATIONS

The bill requires the DECD commissioner, instead of the DOL commissioner, to adopt regulations for the (1) certification of apprenticeship programs qualified to award college credits, and (2) tax credits available to apprentices in the manufacturing, plastics, plastics-related, and construction trades.