



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 327

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 881

Senate, April 8, 2021

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. SLAP of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-124w of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) There shall be within the [Labor Department an Office of
4 Workforce Competitiveness] Department of Economic and Community
5 Development, for administrative purposes only, an Office of Workforce
6 Strategy.

7 (b) [The Labor Commissioner shall, with the assistance of the Office
8 of Workforce Competitiveness] The Office of Workforce Strategy shall
9 be under the direction of the Chief Workforce Officer, who shall report
10 directly to the Governor. The Governor, with the approval of the
11 General Assembly, shall appoint a person with knowledge of public
12 sector workforce training programs to the position of Chief Workforce
13 Officer. Such person shall be qualified by training and experience to

14 perform the duties of the office as set forth in this section. The Chief
15 Workforce Officer shall:

16 (1) Be the [Governor's principal workforce development policy
17 advisor] principal advisor for workforce development policy, strategy
18 and coordination to the Governor;

19 (2) Be the lead state official for the development of employment and
20 training strategies and initiatives;

21 (3) Be the chairperson of the Workforce Cabinet, which shall consist
22 of agencies involved with employment and training, as identified by the
23 Governor pursuant to section 31-3m. The Workforce Cabinet shall meet
24 at the direction of the Governor or the Chief Workforce Officer;

25 [(2)] (4) Be the liaison between the Governor, the Governor's
26 Workforce Council, established pursuant to section 31-3h, as amended
27 by this act, and any local, regional, state or federal organizations and
28 entities with respect to workforce development [matters] policy,
29 strategy and coordination, including, but not limited to, implementation
30 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128,
31 as [from time to time] amended from time to time;

32 [(3)] Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state
33 agencies;]

34 (5) Develop, and update as necessary, a state workforce strategy in
35 consultation with the Governor's Workforce Council and the Workforce
36 Cabinet and subject to the approval of the Governor;

37 [(4)] (6) Coordinate [the state's implementation of the federal
38 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
39 from time to time amended, and advise and assist the Governor with
40 matters related to said act] and align each workforce development
41 activity funded by the state through funds received pursuant to the
42 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
43 amended from time to time, or state grant programs that are
44 administered by or in collaboration with any state agency for the

45 purpose of furthering the goals and outcomes of the state workforce
46 strategy approved by the Governor pursuant to subdivision (5) of this
47 subsection and the workforce development plan developed by the
48 Governor's Workforce Council pursuant to the provisions of section 31-
49 11p, as amended by this act;

50 (7) Collaborate with the regional workforce development boards to
51 adapt the best practices for workforce development established by such
52 boards for statewide implementation, if possible;

53 (8) Coordinate measurement and evaluation of outcomes across
54 education and workforce development programs, in conjunction with
55 state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Labor Department, the
56 Department of Education and the Office of Policy and Management;

57 (9) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, review any
58 state plan for each program set forth in section 103 (b) of the Workforce
59 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from
60 time to time, before such plan is submitted to the Governor;

61 ~~[(5)]~~ (10) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
62 involvement of members of the public, the legislature and local officials
63 in workforce development [matters, including implementation of the
64 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
65 from time to time amended] policy, strategy and coordination;

66 ~~[(6) Enter]~~ (11) In conjunction with one or more state agencies enter
67 into such contractual agreements, in accordance with established
68 procedures and the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
69 Management, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
70 section;

71 (12) Market and communicate the state workforce strategy to ensure
72 maximum engagement with students, trainees, job seekers and
73 businesses while effectively elevating the state's workforce profile
74 nationally;

75 (13) For the purposes of subsection (a) of section 10-21c, as amended

76 by this act, identify subject areas, courses, curriculum, content and
77 programs that may be offered to students in elementary and high school
78 in order to improve student outcomes and meet the workforce needs of
79 the state;

80 (14) Identify high-demand industries for the purposes of inclusion of
81 such industries as career choices in student success plans required
82 pursuant to subsection (j) of section 10-221a, as amended by this act;

83 (15) Issue guidance to state agencies, the Governor's Workforce
84 Council and regional workforce development boards in furtherance of
85 the state workforce strategy. Such guidance shall be in compliance with
86 state and federal laws, approved by the Secretary of the Office of Policy
87 and Management and take effect not less than fourteen days from such
88 approval. The Chief Workforce Officer shall consult on the
89 implementation of any guidance with the agency, council or board
90 impacted by such guidance;

91 (16) Coordinate, in consultation with the Labor Department, with
92 regional workforce development boards and community action
93 agencies to ensure compliance with state and federal laws for the
94 purpose of furthering the service capabilities of programs offered
95 pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, P.L. 113-
96 128, as amended from time to time, and the United States Department
97 of Labor's American Job Center system; and

98 [(7)] (17) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions
99 of this section. [; and]

100 [(8) Not later than October 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, submit a
101 report, with the assistance of the Labor Department, to the Governor
102 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
103 cognizance of matters relating to education, economic development,
104 labor and higher education and employment advancement specifying a
105 forecasted assessment by the Labor Department of workforce shortages
106 in occupations in this state for the succeeding two and five-year periods.
107 The report shall also include recommendations concerning (A) methods

108 to generate a sufficient number of workers to meet identified workforce
109 needs, including, but not limited to, scholarship, school-to-career and
110 internship programs, and (B) methods secondary and higher education
111 and private industry can use to address identified workforce needs.

112 (c) The Labor Department shall be the lead state agency for the
113 development of employment and training strategies and initiatives
114 required to support the state's position in the knowledge economy.]

115 (c) The [Labor Commissioner, with the assistance of the Office of
116 Workforce Competitiveness,] Chief Workforce Officer may call upon
117 any office, department, board, commission, public institution of higher
118 education or other agency of the state to supply such reports,
119 information, data and assistance as may be reasonable, necessary [or]
120 and appropriate in order to carry out [its] the Chief Workforce Officer's
121 or the Office of Workforce Strategy's duties and requirements. Each
122 officer or employee of such office, department, board, commission,
123 public institution of higher education or other agency of the state [is
124 authorized and directed to cooperate with the Labor Commissioner and
125 to] shall furnish such reports, information, data and assistance as
126 requested by the Chief Workforce Officer, to the extent permitted under
127 state and federal law. Any request for data from a participating agency
128 in CP20 WIN, established pursuant to section 10a-57g, shall be
129 submitted through CP20 WIN in accordance with the policies and
130 procedures established by CP20 WIN.

131 (d) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall provide staff to the
132 Governor's Workforce Council and such other resources as the Chief
133 Workforce Officer can make available, and shall coordinate all necessary
134 support that other state agencies make available, as needed by the
135 Governor's Workforce Council.

136 (e) The Chief Workforce Officer, on behalf of the Governor and the
137 Governor's Workforce Council and in consultation with the Labor
138 Commissioner, shall coordinate the state plan, budget and
139 implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
140 Act, P.L. 113-128, as amended from time to time, and may issue

141 guidance to this effect. The Labor Commissioner shall offer such
142 resources as the commissioner can make available for such purpose.

143 (f) Not later than October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Chief
144 Workforce Officer shall submit to the Governor and, in accordance with
145 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
146 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
147 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
148 education, commerce and labor and public employees, a report
149 regarding workforce development in the state. Such report shall include
150 but not be limited to, any programs undertaken by the Office of
151 Workforce Strategy, information on the number of individuals served
152 by such programs, demographic information about such individuals
153 and outcomes of such individuals after completion of a workforce
154 development program.

155 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) There is established an account
156 to be known as the "CareerConneCT account" which shall be a separate,
157 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain
158 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in
159 the account shall be expended by Department of Economic and
160 Community Development for the purposes of funding workforce
161 training programs recommended by the Office of Workforce Strategy.
162 The Chief Workforce Officer, in coordination with the Labor
163 Commissioner and the regional workforce development boards, shall
164 ensure that, to the extent possible, participants in a workforce training
165 program funded through the CareerConneCT account also enroll in any
166 federally funded workforce development program.

167 (b) Not later than October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter until
168 October 1, 2024, the Chief Workforce Officer shall submit to the
169 Governor and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
170 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
171 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
172 and employment advancement, education, commerce and labor and
173 public employees a report regarding the workforce training programs

174 funded through the CareerConneCT account. Such report shall include
175 but not be limited to, information on the number of individuals served,
176 demographic information about such individuals and outcomes of such
177 individuals after completion of a workforce training program.

178 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section and
179 sections 4, 7, 30 and 31 of this act:

180 (1) "Credential" means a documented award issued by an authorized
181 body, including, but not limited to, a (A) degree or certificate awarded
182 by an institution of higher education, private occupational school or
183 provider of an alternate route to certification program approved by the
184 State Board of Education for teachers, (B) certification awarded through
185 an examination process designed to demonstrate acquisition of
186 designated knowledge, skill and ability to perform a specific job, (C)
187 license issued by a governmental agency which permits an individual
188 to practice a specific occupation upon verification that such individual
189 meets a predetermined list of qualifications, and (D) documented
190 completion of an apprenticeship or job training program; and

191 (2) "Credential status type" means the official status of a credential
192 which is either active, deprecated, probationary or superseded.

193 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the executive director of the Office
194 of Higher Education, in consultation with the advisory council
195 established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall create a
196 database of credentials offered in the state for the purpose of explaining
197 the skills and competencies earned through a credential in uniform
198 terms and plain language. In creating the database, the executive
199 director shall utilize the minimum data policy of the New England
200 Board of Higher Education's High Value Credentials for New England
201 initiative, the uniform terms and descriptions of Credentials Engine's
202 Credential Transparency Description Language and the uniform
203 standards for comparing and linking credentials in Credential Engine's
204 Credential Transparency Description Language-Achievement
205 Standards Network. At a minimum, the database shall include the
206 following data for each credential: (1) Credential status type, (2) the

207 entity that owns or offers the credential, (3) the type of credential being
208 offered, (4) a short description of the credential, (5) the name of the
209 credential, (6) the Internet web site that provides information relating to
210 the credential, (7) the language in which the credential is offered, (8) the
211 estimated duration for completion, (9) the industry related to the
212 credential which may include its code under the North American
213 Industry Classification System, (10) the occupation related to the
214 credential which may include its code under the standard occupational
215 classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United
216 States Department of Labor or under The Occupational Information
217 Network, (11) the estimated cost for earning the credential, and (12) a
218 listing of online or physical locations where the credential is offered.

219 (c) There is established an advisory council for the purpose of
220 advising the executive director of the Office of Higher Education on the
221 implementation of the database created pursuant to subsection (b) of
222 this section. The advisory council shall consist of representatives from
223 the Office of Workforce Strategy established pursuant to section 4-124w
224 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, Office of Higher
225 Education, Office of Policy and Management, Labor Department,
226 Department of Education, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
227 The University of Connecticut and independent institutions of higher
228 education and shall include the Chief Data Officer. The Chief Workforce
229 Officer, the Chief Data Officer and the executive director of the Office of
230 Higher Education, or their designees, shall be cochairpersons of the
231 advisory council and shall make any necessary appointments to the
232 advisory council and schedule the meetings of the advisory council.

233 (d) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, each
234 institution of higher education, private occupational school, provider of
235 an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board
236 of Education and provider of a training program listed on the Labor
237 Department's Eligible Training Provider List shall submit information,
238 in the form and manner prescribed by the executive director of the
239 Office of Higher Education, about any credential offered by such
240 institution, school or provider for inclusion in the database created

241 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Such information shall
242 include, but need not be limited to, the data described in subdivisions
243 (1) to (12), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, except an
244 institution of higher education may omit the data required pursuant to
245 subdivisions (9) and (10) of subsection (b) of this section if such data is
246 not applicable to a credential offered by such institution.

247 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any state
248 agency or department to submit credential information to the database
249 created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

250 (f) The Labor Department may, in consultation with the advisory
251 council established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, require any
252 program sponsor of a preapprenticeship or apprenticeship program
253 registered with the department to submit information about such
254 program to the Office of Higher Education for inclusion in such
255 database.

256 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The Office of Workforce
257 Strategy, established pursuant to section 4-124w of the general statutes,
258 as amended by this act, shall establish standards for designating certain
259 credentials as credentials of value. Such standards may include, but
260 need not be limited to, meeting the workforce needs of employers in the
261 state, enrollment rates, completion rates, net cost, whether the credential
262 transfers to or stacks onto another credential of value, duration until
263 completion, types of employment opportunities available upon
264 completion and earnings upon completion.

265 (b) The office shall compile, and annually update, a list of credentials
266 designated as credentials of value, and include such list in the database
267 established pursuant to section 3 of this act.

268 Sec. 5. Subsection (l) of section 10a-34 of the general statutes is
269 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
270 *2021*):

271 (l) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (j), inclusive,

272 of this section and subject to the authority of the State Board of
273 Education to regulate teacher education programs, up to twelve new
274 programs of higher learning in any academic year and any program
275 modifications proposed by an independent institution of higher
276 education, as defined in section 10a-173, shall not be subject to approval
277 by the Office of Higher Education, provided (1) the institution maintains
278 eligibility to participate in financial aid programs governed by Title IV,
279 Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended from time to
280 time, (2) the United States Department of Education has not determined
281 that the institution has a financial responsibility score that is less than
282 1.5 for the most recent fiscal year for which the data necessary for
283 determining the score is available, and (3) the institution has been
284 located in the state and accredited as a degree-granting institution in
285 good standing for ten years or more by a regional accrediting association
286 recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of
287 Education and maintains such accreditation status. Each institution that
288 is exempt from program approval by the Office of Higher Education
289 under this subsection shall file with the office (A) an application for
290 approval of any new program of higher learning in excess of twelve new
291 programs in any academic year, (B) a program actions form, as created
292 by the office, prior to students enrolling in any new program of higher
293 learning or any existing program subject to a program modification, and
294 (C) not later than July first, and annually thereafter, (i) until June 30,
295 2024, a list and brief description of any new programs of higher learning
296 introduced by the institution in the preceding academic year and any
297 existing programs of higher learning discontinued by the institution in
298 the preceding academic year, (ii) the institution's current program
299 approval process and all actions of the governing board concerning
300 approval of any new program of higher learning, and (iii) the
301 institution's financial responsibility composite score, as determined by
302 the United States Department of Education, for the most recent fiscal
303 year for which the data necessary for determining the score is available.
304 An institution that is exempt from program approval pursuant to this
305 subsection may apply to the Office of Workforce Strategy, established
306 pursuant to section 4-124w, as amended by this act, in the form and

307 manner prescribed by said office, for additional exemptions from
308 approval of a new program of higher learning over the twelve exempted
309 in any academic year pursuant to this subsection. Said office may waive
310 the requirement for program approval for any new program if it
311 determines that the new program aligns with and furthers the goals of
312 the state workforce strategy approved by the Governor pursuant to
313 subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 4-124w, as amended by this
314 act.

315 Sec. 6. Section 10a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the
316 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

317 (a) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, as amended
318 by this act, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall have the
319 authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections and the
320 standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder, to (1)
321 review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
322 academic programs for the universities within the Connecticut State
323 University System, the regional community-technical colleges and
324 Charter Oak State College, and (2) until June 30, 2024, report all new
325 programs and program changes to the Office of Higher Education.

326 (b) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, as amended
327 by this act, the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut shall
328 (1) have the authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections
329 and the standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder,
330 to review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
331 academic programs at the university, and (2) until June 30, 2024, report
332 all new programs and program changes to the Office of Higher
333 Education.

334 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2023,
335 each private occupational school, as defined in section 10a-22a of the
336 general statutes, and each provider of an alternate route to certification
337 program approved by the State Board of Education shall submit, in a
338 form and manner prescribed by the executive director of the Office of
339 Higher Education, data for each student enrolled in such private

340 occupational school or alternate route to certification program,
341 including, but not limited to, course enrollment, course completion,
342 credential completion, fees and tuition charged, federal student loans
343 received, federal student loan balances, and for any student who has a
344 state-assigned student identifier pursuant to section 10-10a of the
345 general statutes, such student identifier.

346 (b) No identifiable student information provided to the Office of
347 Higher Education pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be
348 released to the public by the office. The Office of Higher Education shall
349 establish policies to protect any information provided pursuant to
350 subsection (a) of this section as if such information were protected
351 student data subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
352 of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time.

353 Sec. 8. Subsection (j) of section 31-225a of the general statutes is
354 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
355 *2021*):

356 (j) (1) (A) Each employer subject to this chapter shall submit
357 quarterly, on forms supplied by the administrator, a listing of wage
358 information, including the name of each employee receiving wages in
359 employment subject to this chapter, such employee's Social Security
360 account number and the amount of wages paid to such employee during
361 such calendar quarter.

362 (B) Commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2024, unless
363 waived pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection, any employer
364 subject to this chapter, with one hundred or more employees, shall
365 include in the quarterly filing submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)
366 of this subdivision, the following data for each employee receiving
367 wages in employment subject to this chapter: Such employee's gender
368 identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, disability status, highest
369 education completed, home address, address of primary work site,
370 occupational code under the standard occupational classification
371 system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department
372 of Labor, hours worked, days worked, salary or hourly wage,

373 employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable,
374 employment end date. The information required pursuant to this
375 subparagraph shall be included in the quarterly filings of employers
376 subject to this chapter with ninety-nine or fewer employees
377 commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2025, except employers
378 subject to this chapter with forty-nine or fewer employees without an
379 electronic payroll system shall include such information commencing
380 with the third calendar quarter of 2027. Nothing in this subparagraph
381 shall be construed to require an employee to provide information about
382 gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status or disability status if
383 not otherwise required by law. The administrator may issue guidance
384 defining each such data field.

385 (2) [Commencing with the first calendar quarter of 2014, each] Each
386 employer subject to this chapter who reports wages for employees
387 receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter, and each person
388 or organization that, as an agent, reports wages for employees receiving
389 wages in employment subject to this chapter on behalf of one or more
390 employers subject to this chapter shall submit quarterly the information
391 required by subdivision (1) of this subsection [on magnetic tape,
392 diskette, or other similar electronic means which the administrator may
393 prescribe] electronically, in a format and manner prescribed by the
394 administrator, unless such employer or agent receives a waiver
395 pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection.

396 (3) Any employer that fails to submit the information required by
397 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection in a timely
398 manner, as determined by the administrator, shall be liable to the
399 administrator for a late filing fee of twenty-five dollars. Any employer
400 that fails to submit the information required by subparagraph (A) of
401 subdivision (1) of this subsection under a proper state unemployment
402 compensation registration number shall be liable to the administrator
403 for a fee of twenty-five dollars. All fees collected by the administrator
404 under this subdivision shall be deposited in the Employment Security
405 Administration Fund.

406 (4) [Commencing with the first calendar quarter of 2014, each] Each
407 employer subject to this chapter who makes contributions or payments
408 in lieu of contributions for employees receiving wages in employment
409 subject to this chapter, and each person or organization that, as an agent,
410 makes contributions or payments in lieu of contributions for employees
411 receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter on behalf of one
412 or more employers subject to this chapter shall make such contributions
413 or payments in lieu of contributions electronically.

414 (5) Any employer or any person or organization that, as an agent,
415 [submits] is required to submit information pursuant to subdivision (2)
416 of this subsection, [or makes] make contributions or payments in lieu of
417 contributions pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection or submit
418 information pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
419 subsection may request in writing, not later than thirty days prior to the
420 date a submission of information or a contribution or payment in lieu of
421 contribution is due, that the administrator waive [the] such
422 requirement. [that such submission or contribution or payment in lieu
423 of contribution be made electronically.] The administrator shall grant
424 such request if, on the basis of information provided by such employer
425 or person or organization and on a form prescribed by the
426 administrator, the administrator finds that there would be undue
427 hardship for such employer or person or organization. The
428 administrator shall promptly inform such employer or person or
429 organization of the granting or rejection of the requested waiver. The
430 decision of the administrator shall be final and not subject to further
431 review or appeal. Such waiver shall be effective for twelve months from
432 the date such waiver is granted.

433 (6) No identifiable information about an employer or an employee
434 provided to the administrator pursuant to subparagraph (B) of
435 subdivision (1) of this subsection may be released or disclosed to the
436 public by the administrator or the Labor Department. The administrator
437 or the department may share nonidentifiable information provided
438 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection with
439 another state agency, another state or territory, the federal government

440 or to support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN in accordance
441 with the policies and procedures of CP20 WIN, established pursuant
442 section 10a-57g, for the purposes of program administration, audit,
443 evaluation or research.

444 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 12-15 of the general statutes is
445 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
446 *1, 2021*):

447 (b) The commissioner may disclose (1) returns or return information
448 to (A) an authorized representative of another state agency or office,
449 upon written request by the head of such agency or office, when
450 required in the course of duty or when there is reasonable cause to
451 believe that any state law is being violated, or (B) an authorized
452 representative of an agency or office of the United States, upon written
453 request by the head of such agency or office, when required in the course
454 of duty or when there is reasonable cause to believe that any federal law
455 is being violated, provided no such agency or office shall disclose such
456 returns or return information, other than in a judicial or administrative
457 proceeding to which such agency or office is a party pertaining to the
458 enforcement of state or federal law, as the case may be, in a form which
459 can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a
460 particular taxpayer except that the names and addresses of jurors or
461 potential jurors and the fact that the names were derived from the list of
462 taxpayers pursuant to chapter 884 may be disclosed by the Judicial
463 Branch; (2) returns or return information to the Auditors of Public
464 Accounts, when required in the course of duty under chapter 23; (3)
465 returns or return information to tax officers of another state or of a
466 Canadian province or of a political subdivision of such other state or
467 province or of the District of Columbia or to any officer of the United
468 States Treasury Department or the United States Department of Health
469 and Human Services, authorized for such purpose in accordance with
470 an agreement between this state and such other state, province, political
471 subdivision, the District of Columbia or department, respectively, when
472 required in the administration of taxes imposed under the laws of such
473 other state, province, political subdivision, the District of Columbia or

474 the United States, respectively, and when a reciprocal arrangement
475 exists; (4) returns or return information in any action, case or proceeding
476 in any court of competent jurisdiction, when the commissioner or any
477 other state department or agency is a party, and when such information
478 is directly involved in such action, case or proceeding; (5) returns or
479 return information to a taxpayer or its authorized representative, upon
480 written request for a return filed by or return information on such
481 taxpayer; (6) returns or return information to a successor, receiver,
482 trustee, executor, administrator, assignee, guardian or guarantor of a
483 taxpayer, when such person establishes, to the satisfaction of the
484 commissioner, that such person has a material interest which will be
485 affected by information contained in such returns or return information;
486 (7) information to the assessor or an authorized representative of the
487 chief executive officer of a Connecticut municipality, when the
488 information disclosed is limited to (A) a list of real or personal property
489 that is or may be subject to property taxes in such municipality, or (B) a
490 list containing the name of each person who is issued any license, permit
491 or certificate which is required, under the provisions of this title, to be
492 conspicuously displayed and whose address is in such municipality; (8)
493 real estate conveyance tax return information or controlling interest
494 transfer tax return information to the town clerk or an authorized
495 representative of the chief executive officer of a Connecticut
496 municipality to which the information relates; (9) estate tax returns and
497 estate tax return information to the Probate Court Administrator or to
498 the court of probate for the district within which a decedent resided at
499 the date of the decedent's death, or within which the commissioner
500 contends that a decedent resided at the date of the decedent's death or,
501 if a decedent died a nonresident of this state, in the court of probate for
502 the district within which real estate or tangible personal property of the
503 decedent is situated, or within which the commissioner contends that
504 real estate or tangible personal property of the decedent is situated; (10)
505 returns or return information to the (A) Secretary of the Office of Policy
506 and Management for purposes of subsection (b) of section 12-7a, and (B)
507 Office of Fiscal Analysis for purposes of, and subject to the provisions
508 of, subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 12-7b; (11) return

509 information to the Jury Administrator, when the information disclosed
510 is limited to the names, addresses, federal Social Security numbers and
511 dates of birth, if available, of residents of this state, as defined in
512 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-701; (12) returns or return
513 information to any person to the extent necessary in connection with the
514 processing, storage, transmission or reproduction of such returns or
515 return information, and the programming, maintenance, repair, testing
516 or procurement of equipment, or the providing of other services, for
517 purposes of tax administration; (13) without written request and unless
518 the commissioner determines that disclosure would identify a
519 confidential informant or seriously impair a civil or criminal tax
520 investigation, returns and return information which may constitute
521 evidence of a violation of any civil or criminal law of this state or the
522 United States to the extent necessary to apprise the head of such agency
523 or office charged with the responsibility of enforcing such law, in which
524 event the head of such agency or office may disclose such return
525 information to officers and employees of such agency or office to the
526 extent necessary to enforce such law; (14) names and addresses of
527 operators, as defined in section 12-407, to tourism districts, as defined in
528 section 10-397; (15) names of each licensed dealer, as defined in section
529 12-285, and the location of the premises covered by the dealer's license;
530 (16) to a tobacco product manufacturer that places funds into escrow
531 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of section 4-28i, return
532 information of a distributor licensed under the provisions of chapter 214
533 or chapter 214a, provided the information disclosed is limited to
534 information relating to such manufacturer's sales to consumers within
535 this state, whether directly or through a distributor, dealer or similar
536 intermediary or intermediaries, of cigarettes, as defined in section 4-28h,
537 and further provided there is reasonable cause to believe that such
538 manufacturer is not in compliance with section 4-28i; (17) returns, which
539 shall not include a copy of the return filed with the commissioner, or
540 return information for purposes of section 12-217z; (18) returns or return
541 information to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, upon
542 written request by said commission, when necessary to investigate
543 suspected violations of state election laws; [and] (19) returns or return

544 information for purposes of, and subject to the conditions of, subsection
545 (e) of section 5-240; and (20) return information to another state agency
546 or to support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN, established
547 in section 10a-57g, in accordance with the policies and procedures of
548 CP20 WIN for the purposes of evaluation or research, to the extent
549 allowable under federal law.

550 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than December 1, 2021,
551 and annually thereafter, each local and regional board of education that
552 participates in the National School Lunch Program, in which at least one
553 school under the jurisdiction of such board qualifies for the maximum
554 federal reimbursement for all school meals served under the federal
555 Community Eligibility Provision, but does not implement the
556 Community Eligibility Provision, shall report such board's reasons for
557 not implementing Community Eligibility Provision to the Department
558 of Education. The report shall include, but not be limited to, a
559 description of the specific impediments to implementing the
560 Community Eligibility Provision, actions required to remove those
561 impediments and a plan for successful implementation of the
562 Community Eligibility Provision for the following school year, if
563 possible, or within the next two school years. As used in this section,
564 "Community Eligibility Provision" means the federal meal
565 reimbursement program administered by the United States Department
566 of Agriculture, as set forth in 7 CFR 245.9, as amended from time to time.

567 Sec. 11. Subsection (j) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
568 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
569 *2021*):

570 (j) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, [2012] 2021, and each
571 school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education, in
572 collaboration with each student and such student's parent or guardian,
573 shall create a student success plan for [each] such student [enrolled in a
574 public school,] beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall
575 include a student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve,
576 inclusive. Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall

577 provide evidence of career exploration in each grade including, but not
578 limited to, careers in [manufacturing] high-demand industries as
579 identified by the Chief Workforce Officer pursuant to section 4-124w, as
580 amended by this act. The Department of Education shall revise and
581 issue to local and regional boards of education guidance regarding
582 changes to such student success plans. On and after July 1, 2020, in
583 creating such student success plans, consideration shall be given to
584 career and academic choices in computer science, science, technology,
585 engineering and mathematics.

586 (2) On and after July 1, 2022, a student success plan shall include an
587 academic plan that complies with the challenging curriculum policy,
588 adopted by a local or regional board pursuant to section 15 of this act,
589 provided such academic plan does not conflict with the career choices
590 determined by a student and such student's parent or guardian under
591 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

592 (3) On and after July 1, 2024, each local and regional board of
593 education shall maintain each student success plan in an electronic
594 database and submit such plan to the Department of Education. The
595 commissioner may grant an extension of one year to any local or
596 regional board of education that requests an extension of time to comply
597 with the provisions of this subparagraph.

598 (4) The department shall share, upon the written consent of a student,
599 or such student's parent or guardian if the student is seventeen years of
600 age or younger, the student success plan with an academic or career
601 counselor from an institution of higher education in the state in which
602 such student is enrolled.

603 Sec. 12. Subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
604 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
605 *2021*):

606 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023, and for each
607 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
608 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to

609 any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-
610 five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the humanities,
611 including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology,
612 engineering and mathematics, which may include computer science; (3)
613 one credit in physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health
614 and safety education, as described in section 10-16b; (5) one credit in
615 world languages, subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of this
616 section; and (6) a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment.

617 Sec. 13. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is amended by adding
618 subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

619 (NEW) (l) (1) No local or regional board of education may restrict or
620 deny a student access to career and technical education, work-based
621 learning, service learning, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college,
622 advanced placement, International Baccalaureate or any other honors,
623 advanced or accelerated course or program based solely or
624 predominantly on such student's prior academic performance.

625 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
626 subsection, a board may (A) establish prerequisites for any course or
627 program set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, provided, if such
628 course or program is developed, regulated, overseen or sponsored by
629 an independent organization, such prerequisites shall align with the
630 prerequisites required by such organization, (B) seek to minimize
631 prerequisites and ensure that any prerequisites are evidence-based
632 indicators of student performance, and (C) use academic performance
633 or other measures to determine the eligibility of students to enroll in any
634 course or program that is oversubscribed.

635 (3) Each board shall seek to improve access to and diversity in the
636 courses and programs set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection,
637 promote a challenging curriculum for all students and encourage all
638 students to pursue high-quality postsecondary education, including
639 both degree and nondegree programs.

640 (4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a local or

641 regional board of education to offer new programs or courses or to offer
642 additional sections of courses than are currently offered.

643 Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The University of Connecticut shall
644 conduct a three-year pilot program for the school years commencing
645 July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2024, inclusive. Under such pilot program said
646 university shall remove the prerequisites from at least four different
647 University of Connecticut Early College Experience courses that are
648 offered in at least five different public high schools in the state. Said
649 university shall designate the public high schools, with the approval of
650 the local or regional board of education for such high schools, to
651 participate in the pilot program, provided such high schools are
652 geographically dispersed across the state and include at least one high
653 school in an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general
654 statutes.

655 (b) Not later than October 1, 2025, The University of Connecticut shall
656 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
657 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
658 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and
659 education a report comparing the performance of students who enrolled
660 in University of Connecticut Early College Experience courses without
661 prerequisites and the performance of students who enrolled in such
662 courses with prerequisites during the three-year pilot program. Such
663 comparison shall include, but not be limited to, information about
664 course enrollment, performance on exams, final grades and the rate of
665 matriculation at said university by such students.

666 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2022,
667 each local or regional board of education shall adopt a challenging
668 curriculum policy. Under a challenging curriculum policy, a local or
669 regional board of education shall, in accordance with the provisions of
670 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, create an academic plan for a
671 student or enroll a student in the next most rigorous level of a course or
672 program offered by a high school under the jurisdiction of such board
673 based on such student's performance on a mastery examination,

674 administered pursuant to section 10-14n of the general statutes, but not
675 including any alternate assessments administered pursuant to 34 CFR
676 200.1(d) or 34 CFR 300.160(c), as amended from time to time, or such
677 student meeting or exceeding any other criteria established by the
678 board, provided such academic plan or enrollment in an advanced
679 course or program aligns with (1) the courses or programs offered at a
680 student's high school (2) a student's success plan created pursuant to
681 section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (3) the
682 high school graduation requirements set forth in subsection (c) of
683 section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (4)
684 the objectives and requirements of the program or school in which a
685 student is enrolled, including, but not limited to, technical education
686 and career schools and regional agricultural science and technology
687 education centers.

688 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall create an
689 academic plan that (1) results in a student completing one or more dual
690 credit, dual enrollment, early college, advanced placement or
691 International Baccalaureate course by the end of grade eleven for any
692 student in (A) grade eight who meets or exceeds the state level three
693 standard for the English language arts, mathematics or science
694 components of a mastery examination, or (B) grade eight or nine who
695 meets or exceeds any other criteria established by the board, or (2)
696 results in a student completing as many courses as possible that earn
697 college credit, including, but not limited to, dual credit, dual enrollment,
698 early college, advanced placement or International Baccalaureate course
699 by the end of grade twelve for any student in grade eleven who meets
700 or exceeds (A) the state level three standard for each of the English
701 language arts, mathematics and science components of a mastery
702 examination, or (B) any other criteria established by the board.

703 (c) Each local or regional board of education shall enroll a student in
704 grade eight or eleven in the next most rigorous level of a course or
705 program offered by the student's high school for any subject area in
706 which such student meets or exceeds (1) the state level three standard
707 for the English language arts, mathematics or science components of a

708 mastery examination, or (2) any other criteria established by the board.
709 A student who successfully completes an advanced course after
710 enrollment in accordance with this subsection, shall be enrolled in a
711 course that is at the same level or the next most rigorous level in the
712 same subject area with the objective that such student will eventually be
713 enrolled in a dual credit, early college, advanced placement or
714 International Baccalaureate course or program.

715 (d) The parent or guardian of a student, or such student if such
716 student is a legally emancipated minor or eighteen years of age or older,
717 may decline to implement the academic plan created for such student
718 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section or enroll such student in an
719 advanced course or program pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.
720 A teacher or school counselor may, in his or her discretion, recommend
721 a parent or a student to decline such academic plan or enrollment in an
722 advanced course or program.

723 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a local or
724 regional board of education to offer new programs or courses or to offer
725 additional sections of courses than are currently offered.

726 (f) The Department of Education may require local and regional
727 boards of education to report to the department information about
728 student performance and enrollment under the challenging curriculum
729 policy adopted by such board.

730 Sec. 16. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is amended by adding
731 subsection (m) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

732 (NEW) (m) Commencing with the classes graduating in 2024, and for
733 each graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
734 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
735 diploma to any student who has not (1) during such student's last year
736 of high school, completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid,
737 or (2) completed a waiver, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of
738 Education pursuant to section 17 of this act, signed by such minor
739 student's parent or legal guardian or such student if such student is a

740 legally emancipated minor or eighteen years of age or older, which
741 signed waiver shall not require the parent, legal guardian or student to
742 state any reasons for choosing not to complete a Free Application for
743 Federal Student Aid. Not earlier than April fifteenth in any school year,
744 a local or regional board of education shall exempt a student from the
745 requirements of this subsection if such student (A) is unable to complete
746 a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a signed waiver, (B) has
747 or will complete a credential that allows such student, in the
748 determination of such board, to engage in an occupation, (C) has
749 enlisted in the armed forces of the United States, or (D) has placed into
750 a registered apprenticeship program.

751 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2022,
752 the Commissioner of Education shall create and distribute to each local
753 and regional board of education any forms necessary to implement the
754 provisions of subsection (m) of section 10-221a of the general statutes,
755 as amended by this act, and subsection (b) of section 10-69 of the general
756 statutes, as amended by this act.

757 (b) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
758 Department of Education shall post on its Internet web site the rate of
759 completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the
760 classes graduating in each year.

761 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Each local and regional board of
762 education shall allow each student in grade twelve up to three hours of
763 time during the school year to attend an event or to receive assistance
764 for the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or an
765 application for institutional financial aid for students without legal
766 immigration status established pursuant to section 10a-161d of the
767 general statutes. Time spent attending an event or receiving assistance
768 under this section shall not be considered an excused absence or an
769 unexcused absence for a student. No board shall require a student to
770 attend such event or receive such assistance.

771 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) No officer, employee, or agent
772 of a department, board, commission, public institution of higher

773 education or any other agency of the state, or any officer, employee or
774 agent of a local or regional board of education, shall share, disclose, or
775 make accessible in any manner records or information obtained by such
776 officer, employee or agent from an application for institutional financial
777 aid for students without legal immigration status established pursuant
778 to section 10a-161d of the general statutes or signed waivers completed
779 pursuant to subsection (m) of section 10-221a of the general statutes, as
780 amended by this act, or subsection (b) of section 10-69 of the general
781 statutes, as amended by this act, to any federal immigration authority,
782 as defined in section 54-192h of the general statutes.

783 Sec. 20. Subsection (b) of section 10-69 of the general statutes is
784 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
785 *2023*):

786 (b) (1) [Prior to July 1, 2004, no providing school district shall grant
787 an adult education diploma to any adult education program participant
788 who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty adult
789 education credits, of which not fewer than four shall be in English; not
790 fewer than three in mathematics; not fewer than three in social studies,
791 including one in American history; not fewer than two in science; and
792 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education. On and after July
793 1, 2004, no] No providing school district shall grant an adult education
794 diploma to any adult education program participant who has not
795 satisfactorily completed a minimum of [twenty] twenty-five adult
796 education credits, of which not fewer than [four] nine shall be in
797 [English] the humanities, including civics; not fewer than [three] nine in
798 science, technology, engineering and mathematics, [; not fewer than
799 three in social studies, including one in American history and at least a
800 one-half credit course in civics and American government; not fewer
801 than two in science] which may include computer science; and not fewer
802 than one in the arts or vocational education. (2) Each providing school
803 district shall determine the minimum number of weeks per semester an
804 adult education program shall operate and shall provide certified
805 counseling staff to assist adult education program students with
806 educational and career counseling. (3) No providing school district shall

807 grant an adult education diploma to any adult education program
808 participant who enrolls in such program on and after August 1, 2023,
809 and has not satisfactorily (A) completed a Free Application for Federal
810 Student Aid, or (B) completed a waiver, on a form prescribed by the
811 Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 17 of this act, signed by
812 such program participant, which signed waiver shall not require the
813 program participant to state any reasons for choosing not to complete a
814 Free Application for Federal Student Aid. A providing school district
815 shall exempt any program participant from the requirements of this
816 subdivision upon such district's determination that such program
817 participant is unable to complete a Free Application for Federal Student
818 Aid or a signed waiver.

819 Sec. 21. Section 10-184 of the general statutes is repealed and the
820 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

821 All parents and those who have the care of children shall bring them
822 up in some lawful and honest employment and instruct them or cause
823 them to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar,
824 geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship,
825 including a study of the town, state and federal governments. Subject to
826 the provisions of this section and section 10-15c, each parent or other
827 person having control of a child five years of age and over and under
828 eighteen years of age shall cause such child to attend a public school
829 regularly during the hours and terms the public school in the district in
830 which such child resides is in session, unless such child is a high school
831 graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to
832 show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the
833 studies taught in the public schools. For the school year commencing
834 July 1, [2011] 2023, and each school year thereafter, [the parent or person
835 having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent, as
836 provided in this section, to such child's withdrawal from school. Such
837 parent or person] a student who is eighteen years of age or older, or a
838 legally emancipated minor, may withdraw from school. Such student
839 shall personally appear at the school district office and sign a
840 withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation

841 from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of
842 the school that such school district has provided such [parent or person]
843 student with information on the educational options available in the
844 school system and in the community. The parent or person having
845 control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending
846 the child to school until the child is six years of age and the parent or
847 person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of
848 not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age. The
849 parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at
850 the school district office and signing an option form. The school district
851 shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational
852 opportunities available in the school system.

853 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 10-5 of the general statutes is
854 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
855 *2023*):

856 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in accordance with this
857 section, issue a state high school diploma to any person (1) who
858 successfully completes an examination approved by the commissioner,
859 or (2) who (A) [is seventeen years of age and has been officially
860 withdrawn from school in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
861 184 or] is eighteen years of age or older, or is a legally emancipated
862 minor, and (B) presents to the commissioner evidence demonstrating
863 educational qualifications which the commissioner deems equivalent to
864 those required for graduation from a public high school. Application for
865 such a diploma shall be made in the manner and form prescribed by the
866 commissioner provided, at the time of application to take the
867 examination described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
868 applicant [is seventeen years of age or older,] has been officially
869 withdrawn from school, in accordance with section 10-184, as amended
870 by this act, for at least six months and has been advised, in such manner
871 as may be prescribed by the commissioner, of the other options for high
872 school completion and other available educational programs. For good
873 cause shown, the commissioner may allow a person who is [sixteen]
874 seventeen years of age to apply to take the examination. [, provided the

875 commissioner may not issue a state high school diploma to such person
876 until the person has attained seventeen years of age.]

877 Sec. 23. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than January 1, 2022,
878 the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Office of
879 Workforce Strategy, established pursuant to section 4-124w of the
880 general statutes, as amended by this act, and with the approval of the
881 State Board of Education, may make recommendations to the State
882 Board of Education, the Office of Policy and Management and, in
883 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
884 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
885 cognizance of matters relating to higher education and education on: (1)
886 Strategies and supports necessary to increase the number of students in
887 alliance districts and adult education programs that complete the Free
888 Application for Federal Student Aid; (2) educating students and their
889 families about the net cost of college, the use of federal Pell grants to
890 make college more affordable and the varying income potential of
891 different college and certificate programs; (3) strategies to remove
892 barriers and simplify access to high-quality postsecondary education
893 and training options, including, but not limited to, nondegree programs;
894 (4) the feasibility of establishing an early graduation program in which
895 a student who graduates from high school in three years or fewer
896 receives a scholarship from the local or regional board of education
897 responsible for educating such student to attend an undergraduate, in-
898 person program at a nonprofit institution of higher education in the
899 state; and (5) the feasibility of developing a standardized exit survey for
900 all students in grade twelve in the state. The commissioner shall consult
901 with parents, teachers and school administrators before making any
902 such recommendations and may establish a task force to help create
903 such recommendations.

904 Sec. 24. Section 10-220g of the general statutes is repealed and the
905 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

906 Each local and regional board of education shall establish, and
907 update as necessary, a written policy concerning [weighted] grading

908 [for honors and advanced placement classes] and calculation of a grade
909 point average, including whether such grade point average is weighted
910 or unweighted. The policy shall provide that parents and students are
911 advised whether a grade in an honors, [class or an] advanced placement,
912 International Baccalaureate, Cambridge International, service learning,
913 dual enrollment, dual credit, early college or career and technical class
914 is or is not given added weight for purposes of calculating grade point
915 average and determining class rank. Each local and regional board of
916 education shall consider the impact of a weighted grading policy on the
917 grade point average and class rank of students who complete
918 coursework in career and technical education before establishing or
919 updating such policy.

920 Sec. 25. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section and
921 section 26 of this act, "participating institution" means (1) an institution
922 of higher education within the Connecticut State University System, or
923 (2) any other institution of higher education in the state that enters into
924 a memorandum of understanding with the Board of Regents for Higher
925 Education in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

926 (b) Not later than April 1, 2022, the Board of Regents for Higher
927 Education, in consultation with institutions of higher education that are
928 eligible to be participating institutions, shall (1) establish the
929 Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program, and (2) adopt rules,
930 procedures and forms necessary to implement such program. The
931 Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program shall require participating
932 institutions to admit any applicant as a full-time, first-year student to an
933 in-state, in-person bachelor's degree program if such applicant (A)
934 meets or exceeds the academic threshold established pursuant to
935 subsection (e) of this section, (B) would qualify as an in-state student
936 pursuant to section 10a-29 of the general statutes, (C) is in his or her last
937 school year before graduation and enrolled at a public high school in the
938 state or a nonpublic high school in the state, approved pursuant to
939 subsection (g) of this section, and (D) if required by a participating
940 institution, earns a high school diploma. A participating institution may
941 conduct a comprehensive review of any application from an applicant

942 who applies through the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program,
943 which may entail requesting additional application materials from such
944 applicant or result in denying admission to such applicant. Each
945 participating institution shall, to the greatest extent possible, minimize
946 the number of students subjected to a comprehensive review if such
947 student meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive,
948 of this subsection. Applicants admitted to a participating institution
949 under the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program are not
950 guaranteed admission into any specific bachelor's degree program at
951 such institution.

952 (c) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall create a simple
953 online application form for students to apply to participating
954 institutions under the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program.
955 Such application shall require a student to verify that such student
956 meets the qualifications specified in subsection (b) of this section. Such
957 application shall not require (1) an application fee, or (2) the submission
958 of an essay or recommendation letters.

959 (d) Any institution of higher education in the state that (1) is not
960 within the Connecticut State University System, (2) is a nonprofit
961 institution of higher education, (3) has graduated one hundred or more
962 students with a bachelor's degree each year for the preceding four years,
963 (4) maintains eligibility to participate in financial aid programs
964 governed by Title IV, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as
965 amended from time to time, (5) has not been determined by the United
966 States Department of Education to have a financial responsibility score
967 that is less than 1.5 for the most recent fiscal year for which the data
968 necessary for determining the score is available, and (6) is accredited as
969 a degree-granting institution in good standing for ten years or more by
970 a regional accrediting association recognized by the Secretary of the
971 United States Department of Education, and maintains such
972 accreditation status, may enter into a memorandum of agreement with
973 the Board of Regents for Higher Education to participate in the
974 Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program. Each participating
975 institution shall accept the online application form created pursuant to

976 subsection (c) of this section and comply with the provisions of
977 subsection (e) of this section. The Board of Regents for Higher Education
978 may charge a reasonable fee to any participating institution that is not a
979 constituent unit of the state system of higher education for inclusion in
980 the program. Such fee shall not exceed the board's cost for including
981 such participating institution in the program or twenty-five thousand
982 dollars, whichever is less.

983 (e) (1) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall establish (A)
984 a minimum class rank percentile for applicants to qualify for admission
985 through the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program to each
986 participating institution, and (B) a standardized method for calculating
987 grade point average that shall be used to determine class rank
988 percentile.

989 (2) Any participating institution may establish an academic threshold
990 for admission to such institution through the Connecticut Automatic
991 Admissions Program, in addition to the minimum class rank percentile
992 established by the Board of Regents for Higher Education. Such
993 academic threshold shall be based on a minimum grade point average
994 calculated in accordance with the standardized method established by
995 the board. If a state university within the Connecticut State University
996 System establishes an academic threshold, such university shall admit
997 applicants through said program if such applicant meets or exceeds
998 either the minimum class rank percentile established by the board or the
999 minimum grade point average established by such university. If any
1000 other participating institution establishes an academic threshold, such
1001 institution shall admit applicants through said program if such
1002 applicant meets or exceeds the minimum class rank percentile
1003 established by the board, the minimum grade point average established
1004 by such institution or both.

1005 (3) No governing board of a participating institution shall establish
1006 policies or procedures that require any academic qualifications in
1007 addition to the qualifications specified in subsection (b) of this section
1008 and the academic threshold established pursuant to this subsection.

1009 (f) No participating institution shall consider the admission of a
1010 student through the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program in
1011 determining such student's eligibility for need-based or merit-based
1012 financial aid.

1013 (g) The supervisory agent of a nonpublic high school in the state may
1014 submit an application to the Board of Regents for Higher Education, in
1015 the form and manner prescribed by the board, to participate in the
1016 Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program. The board shall approve
1017 any such application provided such nonpublic high school (1) is
1018 accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization or is
1019 operated by the United States Department of Defense, and (2) complies
1020 with the provisions of section 26 of this act.

1021 Sec. 26. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than August 1, 2022,
1022 and each school year thereafter, for the purpose of qualifying a student
1023 for the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program established
1024 pursuant to section 25 of this act, each local and regional board of
1025 education shall (1) calculate a grade point average using the
1026 standardized method established by the Board of Regents for Higher
1027 Education, pursuant to subsection (e) of section 25 of this act, for each
1028 student who completes eleventh grade, and (2) determine whether such
1029 student's class rank percentile is above or below the minimum
1030 established by the Board of Regents for Higher Education pursuant to
1031 subsection (e) of section 25 of this act. Each local or regional board of
1032 education shall share a student's grade point average and whether such
1033 student is above or below the minimum class rank percentile with (A)
1034 the student, (B) the student's parent or guardian if such student is
1035 seventeen years of age or younger, (C) the Department of Education, in
1036 the form and manner prescribed by the department, and (D) upon the
1037 student's request, a participating institution for the purposes of the
1038 Connecticut Automatic Admission Program.

1039 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a local or
1040 regional board of education to publish or provide a class ranking for any
1041 student or to publish on a student's transcript the grade point average

1042 calculated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or whether such
1043 student is above or below the minimum class rank percentile established
1044 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education pursuant to subsection (e)
1045 of section 25 of this act.

1046 (c) Not later than August 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter,
1047 each local and regional board education shall notify each student
1048 enrolled his or her final year of high school, and the parent or guardian
1049 of such student, whether such student may be admitted to at least one
1050 participating institution under the Connecticut Automatic Admissions
1051 Program based on the academic threshold established by such
1052 institution pursuant to subsection (e) of section 25 of this act.

1053 Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

1054 (1) "Eligible organization" means any provider of a training program,
1055 provider of an alternate route to certification program approved by the
1056 State Board of Education, institution of higher education, private
1057 occupational school, employer, state or municipal agency and public or
1058 nonprofit social service provider in the state; and

1059 (2) "Approved class" means a set of employees, clients, students or
1060 customers of an eligible organization.

1061 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of
1062 Transportation shall establish CTpass program to allow individuals in
1063 an approved class for an eligible organization to use certain public
1064 transit services without cost or at a reduced cost. The commissioner shall
1065 post information regarding the CTpass program and application
1066 process for such program on the Department of Transportation's
1067 Internet web site in a manner that, in the commissioner's discretion, will
1068 maximize awareness and participation by the greatest number of
1069 eligible organizations.

1070 (c) Upon receipt of an application from an eligible organization to
1071 participate in the CTpass program, the commissioner may negotiate the
1072 terms and conditions and enter into a contract with such eligible

1073 organization. The commissioner may treat several eligible organizations
1074 as a single eligible organization for the purposes of a contract under the
1075 CTpass program. Such terms and conditions shall include, but not be
1076 limited to, the amount of compensation or reimbursement required
1077 from the eligible organization, the definition of approved class specific
1078 to the eligible organization and any limitations on times of use or types
1079 of public transit services available to the approved class. The
1080 compensation or reimbursement negotiated in the contract shall be in
1081 an amount as the commissioner deems necessary or advisable, provided
1082 the amount is sufficient to ensure that transit service expenditures
1083 incurred by the department do not increase as a result of the CTpass
1084 program and to cover any administrative costs incurred by the
1085 department in the operation of the CTpass program. A contract under
1086 the CTpass program shall be valid upon the approval of the Office of
1087 Policy and Management for a term of not more than two years, except
1088 the first contract with an eligible organization shall not exceed twelve
1089 months. Prior to any renewal of a contract with an eligible organization
1090 under the CTpass program, the commissioner shall consider prior pass
1091 utilization information and any transit service expenditure increases
1092 incurred by the department for the purpose of re-evaluating the amount
1093 of compensation or reimbursement required from such eligible
1094 organization.

1095 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
1096 Commissioner of Transportation shall submit a report to the Secretary
1097 of the Office of Policy and Management on the financial data and pass
1098 utilization information for each contract under the CTpass program.

1099 Sec. 28. Section 10a-223 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1100 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

1101 In this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the
1102 following meanings unless the context indicates another or different
1103 meaning or intent:

1104 (1) "Authority" means the Connecticut Higher Education
1105 Supplemental Loan Authority constituted as a subsidiary of the

1106 Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority as provided in
1107 section 10a-179a;

1108 (2) "Authorized officer" means an employee of the Connecticut
1109 Health and Educational Facilities Authority or of the authority who is
1110 authorized by the board of directors of the authority to execute and
1111 deliver documents and papers and to act in the name of and on behalf
1112 of the authority;

1113 (3) "Authority loans" means education loans by the authority, or loans
1114 by the authority from the proceeds of bonds for the purpose of funding
1115 education loans;

1116 (4) "Board" means the board of directors of the authority;

1117 (5) "Bonds" or "revenue bonds" means revenue bonds or notes of the
1118 authority issued under the provisions of this chapter, including revenue
1119 refunding bonds or notes;

1120 (6) "Bond resolution" means the resolution or resolutions of the
1121 authority and the trust agreement, if any, authorizing the issuance of
1122 and providing for the terms and conditions applicable to bonds;

1123 (7) "Borrower" means (A) an individual who has an outstanding loan
1124 from the authority, (B) an individual who attends a Connecticut
1125 institution for higher education, enrolls in a Connecticut high-value
1126 certificate program or currently resides in the state, and has received or
1127 agreed to pay an education loan, or (C) any parent who has received or
1128 agreed to pay an education loan on behalf of an individual who attends
1129 a Connecticut institution for higher education or currently resides in the
1130 state;

1131 (8) "Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority" means
1132 the quasi-public authority established pursuant to section 10a-179;

1133 (9) "Connecticut institution for higher education" means an
1134 institution for higher education within the state;

1135 (10) "Default insurance" means insurance insuring education loans,
1136 authority loans or bonds against default;

1137 (11) "Default reserve fund" means a fund established pursuant to a
1138 bond resolution for the purpose of securing education loans, authority
1139 loans or bonds;

1140 (12) "Education loan" means a loan which is made to a student in or
1141 from the state or a parent of such student to finance attendance at an
1142 institution for higher education or enrollment in a high-value certificate
1143 program, or to a borrower to refinance one or more eligible loans;

1144 (13) "Loan funding deposit" means moneys or other property
1145 deposited by a Connecticut institution for higher education with the
1146 authority, a guarantor or a trustee for the purpose of (A) providing
1147 security for bonds, (B) funding a default reserve fund, (C) acquiring
1148 default insurance, or (D) defraying costs of the authority, such moneys
1149 or properties to be in such amounts as deemed necessary by the
1150 authority or guarantor as a condition for such institution's participation
1151 in the authority's programs;

1152 (14) "Institution for higher education" means a degree-granting
1153 educational institution within the United States authorized by
1154 applicable law to provide a program of education beyond the high
1155 school level and (A) described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
1156 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal
1157 revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, and
1158 exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of said code with respect to
1159 a trade or business carried on by such institution which is not an
1160 unrelated trade or business, determined by applying Section 513(a) of
1161 said code to such organization or a foundation established for its benefit,
1162 or (B) exempt from taxation under said code as a governmental unit;

1163 (15) "Participating institution for higher education" means a
1164 Connecticut institution for higher education which, pursuant to the
1165 provisions of this chapter, undertakes the financing directly or
1166 indirectly of education loans as provided in this chapter;

1167 (16) "Parent" means any parent, legal guardian or sponsor of a
1168 student at an institution for higher education or enrolled in a high-value
1169 certificate program;

1170 (17) "Education loan series portfolio" means all education loans made
1171 by the authority or by or on behalf of a specific participating institution
1172 for higher education which are funded from the proceeds of a related
1173 specific bond issue of the authority;

1174 (18) "Education assistance program" means a program to assist in
1175 financing the costs of education through education loans or education
1176 grants, or both;

1177 (19) "Education grant" means a grant, scholarship, fellowship or other
1178 nonrepayable assistance awarded by the authority to a student currently
1179 residing in the state to finance the attendance of the student at a
1180 Connecticut institution for higher education or enrollment in a
1181 Connecticut high-value certificate program, or a grant, scholarship,
1182 fellowship or other nonrepayable assistance awarded by or on behalf of
1183 a Connecticut institution for higher education from the proceeds of
1184 funds provided by the authority to a student from the state to finance
1185 the student's attendance at such institution; [and]

1186 (20) "Eligible loan" means any loan that is in repayment that was (A)
1187 made by the authority, or (B) made to a borrower by any other private
1188 or governmental lender to finance attendance at an institution for higher
1189 education [.] or enrollment in a high-value certificate program;

1190 (21) "High-value certificate program" means a noncredit sub-
1191 baccalaureate certificate program offered by an institution of higher
1192 education or a private occupational school that the Office of Workforce
1193 Strategy designates to be a credential of value pursuant to section 4 of
1194 this act; and

1195 (22) "Connecticut high-value certificate program" means a high-value
1196 certificate program offered by an institution of higher education or a
1197 private occupational school in the state.

1198 Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The Connecticut Higher
1199 Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish an account to be
1200 known as the Certificate Loan Loss Reserve and Funding account, which
1201 shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any
1202 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, including, but
1203 not limited to, state appropriations or proceeds from the sale of bonds.
1204 Moneys in the account shall be expended by the authority to (1) fund
1205 authority loans issued to a borrower to finance enrollment in a
1206 Connecticut high-value certificate program, as defined in section 10a-
1207 223 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) to cover any losses
1208 incurred by the authority from issuing such authority loans, (3) for
1209 reasonable and necessary expenses for the administration of such
1210 authority loans, and (4) any initial implementation expenses prior to the
1211 origination of such authority loans.

1212 Sec. 30. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than September 1, 2022,
1213 and every two years thereafter until September 1, 2028, the Chief
1214 Workforce Officer shall submit to the Board of Regents for Higher
1215 Education and the Governor a report on credentials, as defined in
1216 section 3 of this act, and skills that are in demand in the labor market
1217 and that lead to quality jobs.

1218 Sec. 31. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than February 1, 2023,
1219 the Chief Workforce Officer, jointly with the Commissioners of
1220 Correction and Labor and the Undersecretary for Criminal Justice at the
1221 Office of Policy and Management, shall submit to the Governor, the
1222 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and, in accordance
1223 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
1224 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1225 matters relating to the judiciary, higher education and employment
1226 advancement, labor, and commerce, recommendations to improve
1227 workforce training and attainment of credentials, as defined in section 3
1228 of this act, for individuals incarcerated by the Department of Correction,
1229 including but not limited to (1) whether credential attainment shall be a
1230 factor for early release, and (2) credentials and skills that are in demand
1231 in the labor market and that lead to quality jobs, including any barriers

1232 to equitable access to such quality jobs.

1233 Sec. 32. Subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the general statutes is
1234 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1235 *2021*):

1236 (b) Nothing in the Freedom of Information Act shall be construed to
1237 require disclosure of:

1238 (1) Preliminary drafts or notes provided the public agency has
1239 determined that the public interest in withholding such documents
1240 clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure;

1241 (2) Personnel or medical files and similar files the disclosure of which
1242 would constitute an invasion of personal privacy;

1243 (3) Records of law enforcement agencies not otherwise available to
1244 the public which records were compiled in connection with the
1245 detection or investigation of crime, if the disclosure of such records
1246 would not be in the public interest because it would result in the
1247 disclosure of (A) the identity of informants not otherwise known or the
1248 identity of witnesses not otherwise known whose safety would be
1249 endangered or who would be subject to threat or intimidation if their
1250 identity was made known, (B) the identity of minor witnesses, (C)
1251 signed statements of witnesses, (D) information to be used in a
1252 prospective law enforcement action if prejudicial to such action, (E)
1253 investigatory techniques not otherwise known to the general public, (F)
1254 arrest records of a juvenile, which shall also include any investigatory
1255 files, concerning the arrest of such juvenile, compiled for law
1256 enforcement purposes, (G) the name and address of the victim of a
1257 sexual assault under section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or
1258 53a-73a, voyeurism under section 53a-189a, injury or risk of injury, or
1259 impairing of morals under section 53-21 or family violence, as defined
1260 in section 46b-38a, or of an attempt thereof, or (H) uncorroborated
1261 allegations subject to destruction pursuant to section 1-216;

1262 (4) Records pertaining to strategy and negotiations with respect to

1263 pending claims or pending litigation to which the public agency is a
1264 party until such litigation or claim has been finally adjudicated or
1265 otherwise settled;

1266 (5) (A) Trade secrets, which for purposes of the Freedom of
1267 Information Act, are defined as information, including formulas,
1268 patterns, compilations, programs, devices, methods, techniques,
1269 processes, drawings, cost data, customer lists, film or television scripts
1270 or detailed production budgets that (i) derive independent economic
1271 value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not
1272 being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can
1273 obtain economic value from their disclosure or use, and (ii) are the
1274 subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to
1275 maintain secrecy; and

1276 (B) Commercial or financial information given in confidence, not
1277 required by statute;

1278 (6) Test questions, scoring keys and other examination data used to
1279 administer a licensing examination, examination for employment or
1280 academic examinations;

1281 (7) The contents of real estate appraisals, engineering or feasibility
1282 estimates and evaluations made for or by an agency relative to the
1283 acquisition of property or to prospective public supply and construction
1284 contracts, until such time as all of the property has been acquired or all
1285 proceedings or transactions have been terminated or abandoned,
1286 provided the law of eminent domain shall not be affected by this
1287 provision;

1288 (8) Statements of personal worth or personal financial data required
1289 by a licensing agency and filed by an applicant with such licensing
1290 agency to establish the applicant's personal qualification for the license,
1291 certificate or permit applied for;

1292 (9) Records, reports and statements of strategy or negotiations with
1293 respect to collective bargaining;

1294 (10) Records, tax returns, reports and statements exempted by federal
1295 law or the general statutes or communications privileged by the
1296 attorney-client relationship, marital relationship, clergy-penitent
1297 relationship, doctor-patient relationship, therapist-patient relationship
1298 or any other privilege established by the common law or the general
1299 statutes, including any such records, tax returns, reports or
1300 communications that were created or made prior to the establishment
1301 of the applicable privilege under the common law or the general
1302 statutes;

1303 (11) Names or addresses of students enrolled in any public school or
1304 college without the consent of each student whose name or address is to
1305 be disclosed who is eighteen years of age or older and a parent or
1306 guardian of each such student who is younger than eighteen years of
1307 age, provided this subdivision shall not be construed as prohibiting the
1308 disclosure of the names or addresses of students enrolled in any public
1309 school in a regional school district to the board of selectmen or town
1310 board of finance, as the case may be, of the town wherein the student
1311 resides for the purpose of verifying tuition payments made to such
1312 school;

1313 (12) Any information obtained by the use of illegal means;

1314 (13) Records of an investigation or the name of an employee
1315 providing information under the provisions of section 4-61dd or
1316 sections 4-276 to 4-280, inclusive;

1317 (14) Adoption records and information provided for in sections 45a-
1318 746, 45a-750 and 45a-751;

1319 (15) Any page of a primary petition, nominating petition, referendum
1320 petition or petition for a town meeting submitted under any provision
1321 of the general statutes or of any special act, municipal charter or
1322 ordinance, until the required processing and certification of such page
1323 has been completed by the official or officials charged with such duty
1324 after which time disclosure of such page shall be required;

1325 (16) Records of complaints, including information compiled in the
1326 investigation thereof, brought to a municipal health authority pursuant
1327 to chapter 368e or a district department of health pursuant to chapter
1328 368f, until such time as the investigation is concluded or thirty days
1329 from the date of receipt of the complaint, whichever occurs first;

1330 (17) Educational records which are not subject to disclosure under the
1331 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 USC 1232g;

1332 (18) Records, the disclosure of which the Commissioner of
1333 Correction, or as it applies to Whiting Forensic Hospital, the
1334 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, has reasonable
1335 grounds to believe may result in a safety risk, including the risk of harm
1336 to any person or the risk of an escape from, or a disorder in, a
1337 correctional institution or facility under the supervision of the
1338 Department of Correction or Whiting Forensic Hospital. Such records
1339 shall include, but are not limited to:

1340 (A) Security manuals, including emergency plans contained or
1341 referred to in such security manuals;

1342 (B) Engineering and architectural drawings of correctional
1343 institutions or facilities or Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities;

1344 (C) Operational specifications of security systems utilized by the
1345 Department of Correction at any correctional institution or facility or
1346 Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities, except that a general description of
1347 any such security system and the cost and quality of such system may
1348 be disclosed;

1349 (D) Training manuals prepared for correctional institutions and
1350 facilities or Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities that describe, in any
1351 manner, security procedures, emergency plans or security equipment;

1352 (E) Internal security audits of correctional institutions and facilities or
1353 Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities;

1354 (F) Minutes or recordings of staff meetings of the Department of

1355 Correction or Whiting Forensic Hospital facilities, or portions of such
1356 minutes or recordings, that contain or reveal information relating to
1357 security or other records otherwise exempt from disclosure under this
1358 subdivision;

1359 (G) Logs or other documents that contain information on the
1360 movement or assignment of inmates or staff at correctional institutions
1361 or facilities; and

1362 (H) Records that contain information on contacts between inmates, as
1363 defined in section 18-84, and law enforcement officers;

1364 (19) Records when there are reasonable grounds to believe disclosure
1365 may result in a safety risk, including the risk of harm to any person, any
1366 government-owned or leased institution or facility or any fixture or
1367 appurtenance and equipment attached to, or contained in, such
1368 institution or facility, except that such records shall be disclosed to a law
1369 enforcement agency upon the request of the law enforcement agency.
1370 Such reasonable grounds shall be determined (A) (i) by the
1371 Commissioner of Administrative Services, after consultation with the
1372 chief executive officer of an executive branch state agency, with respect
1373 to records concerning such agency; and (ii) by the Commissioner of
1374 Emergency Services and Public Protection, after consultation with the
1375 chief executive officer of a municipal, district or regional agency, with
1376 respect to records concerning such agency; (B) by the Chief Court
1377 Administrator with respect to records concerning the Judicial
1378 Department; and (C) by the executive director of the Joint Committee on
1379 Legislative Management, with respect to records concerning the
1380 Legislative Department. As used in this section, "government-owned or
1381 leased institution or facility" includes, but is not limited to, an institution
1382 or facility owned or leased by a public service company, as defined in
1383 section 16-1, other than a water company, as defined in section 25-32a, a
1384 certified telecommunications provider, as defined in section 16-1, or a
1385 municipal utility that furnishes electric or gas service, but does not
1386 include an institution or facility owned or leased by the federal
1387 government, and "chief executive officer" includes, but is not limited to,

1388 an agency head, department head, executive director or chief executive
1389 officer. Such records include, but are not limited to:

1390 (i) Security manuals or reports;

1391 (ii) Engineering and architectural drawings of government-owned or
1392 leased institutions or facilities;

1393 (iii) Operational specifications of security systems utilized at any
1394 government-owned or leased institution or facility, except that a general
1395 description of any such security system and the cost and quality of such
1396 system may be disclosed;

1397 (iv) Training manuals prepared for government-owned or leased
1398 institutions or facilities that describe, in any manner, security
1399 procedures, emergency plans or security equipment;

1400 (v) Internal security audits of government-owned or leased
1401 institutions or facilities;

1402 (vi) Minutes or records of meetings, or portions of such minutes or
1403 records, that contain or reveal information relating to security or other
1404 records otherwise exempt from disclosure under this subdivision;

1405 (vii) Logs or other documents that contain information on the
1406 movement or assignment of security personnel; and

1407 (viii) Emergency plans and emergency preparedness, response,
1408 recovery and mitigation plans, including plans provided by a person to
1409 a state agency or a local emergency management agency or official;

1410 (20) Records of standards, procedures, processes, software and codes,
1411 not otherwise available to the public, the disclosure of which would
1412 compromise the security or integrity of an information technology
1413 system;

1414 (21) The residential, work or school address of any participant in the
1415 address confidentiality program established pursuant to sections 54-240
1416 to 54-240o, inclusive;

1417 (22) The electronic mail address of any person that is obtained by the
1418 Department of Transportation in connection with the implementation
1419 or administration of any plan to inform individuals about significant
1420 highway or railway incidents;

1421 (23) The name or address of any minor enrolled in any parks and
1422 recreation program administered or sponsored by any public agency;

1423 (24) Responses to any request for proposals or bid solicitation issued
1424 by a public agency, responses by a public agency to any request for
1425 proposals or bid solicitation issued by a private entity or any record or
1426 file made by a public agency in connection with the contract award
1427 process, until such contract is executed or negotiations for the award of
1428 such contract have ended, whichever occurs earlier, provided the chief
1429 executive officer of such public agency certifies that the public interest
1430 in the disclosure of such responses, record or file is outweighed by the
1431 public interest in the confidentiality of such responses, record or file;

1432 (25) The name, address, telephone number or electronic mail address
1433 of any person enrolled in any senior center program or any member of
1434 a senior center administered or sponsored by any public agency;

1435 (26) All records obtained during the course of inspection,
1436 investigation, examination and audit activities of an institution, as
1437 defined in section 19a-490, that are confidential pursuant to a contract
1438 between the Department of Public Health and the United States
1439 Department of Health and Human Services relating to the Medicare and
1440 Medicaid programs;

1441 (27) Any record created by a law enforcement agency or other federal,
1442 state, or municipal governmental agency consisting of a photograph,
1443 film, video or digital or other visual image depicting the victim of a
1444 homicide, to the extent that such record could reasonably be expected
1445 to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the
1446 victim or the victim's surviving family members;

1447 (28) Any documentation provided to or obtained by an executive

1448 branch agency, including documentation provided or obtained prior to
1449 May 25, 2016, relating to claims of faulty or failing concrete foundations
1450 in residential buildings by the owners of such residential buildings, and
1451 documents prepared by an executive branch agency relating to such
1452 documentation, for seven years after the date of receipt of the
1453 documentation or seven years after May 25, 2016, whichever is later; .]

1454 (29) Any information reported to an executive branch agency by an
1455 institution of higher education, private occupational school or any other
1456 provider of training or certificate programs concerning applicants for
1457 admission to or students enrolled in such institutions, schools or
1458 programs, including, but not limited to, information regarding
1459 enrollment, program completion and student loans or other financial
1460 aid;

1461 (30) Any employee information provided to the Labor Commissioner
1462 by an employer pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of
1463 subsection (j) of section 31-225a, as amended by this act;

1464 (31) Records of or information from the Free Application for Federal
1465 Student Aid, institutional financial aid for students without legal
1466 immigration status established pursuant to section 10a-161d, waiver
1467 completed pursuant to subsection (m) of section 10-221a, as amended
1468 by this act, or subsection (b) of section 10-69, as amended by this act, and
1469 applications for admission to institutions of higher education, including
1470 applications made pursuant to the Connecticut Automatic Admissions
1471 Program established in Section 25 of this act, held by any department,
1472 board, commission, public institution of higher education or any other
1473 agency of the state, or any local or regional board of education,
1474 including such materials not otherwise protected under the Family
1475 Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended
1476 from time to time.

1477 Sec. 33. Subsection (a) of section 10-21j of the general statutes is
1478 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1479 *2021*):

1480 (a) The Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with the Board
1481 of Regents for Higher Education, shall establish the Connecticut
1482 Apprenticeship and Education Committee to coordinate and identify (1)
1483 potential preapprenticeship and apprenticeship training program
1484 integration, and (2) leveraged funding identification of career technical
1485 education programs within high schools and programs within higher
1486 education institutions for careers in various industries. Such committee
1487 shall include, but not be limited to, (A) representatives from the
1488 Department of Economic and Community Development, the Labor
1489 Department, the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, the
1490 Connecticut Manufacturers Collaborative, the Technical Education and
1491 Career System, the advanced manufacturing centers at the regional
1492 community-technical colleges, independent institutions of higher
1493 education in the state that offer training in the field of manufacturing,
1494 the [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission] Governor's
1495 Workforce Council, companies and employee organizations that
1496 represent manufacturing workers, and (B) teachers, guidance
1497 counselors, school counselors, principals and superintendents.

1498 Sec. 34. Subsection (a) of section 10-95s of the general statutes is
1499 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1500 *2021*):

1501 (a) The Technical Education and Career System shall be advised by a
1502 Technical Education and Career System board. The board shall consist
1503 of eleven members and shall include at least the following, (1) two
1504 members with experience in manufacturing or a trade offered by the
1505 Technical Education and Career System, or who are alumni of the
1506 system, (2) two members who are executives of Connecticut-based
1507 employers and who shall be nominated by the [Connecticut
1508 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce
1509 Council, established pursuant to section 31-3h. The Commissioners of
1510 Education and Economic and Community Development and the Labor
1511 Commissioner, or their respective designees, shall serve as ex-officio
1512 members of the board. Members of the board shall be appointed by the
1513 Governor with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, in

1514 accordance with the provisions of section 4-7. Any vacancy shall be
1515 filled in the manner provided in section 4-19. The Governor shall
1516 appoint the chairperson.

1517 Sec. 35. Subsection (b) of section 17b-688h of the general statutes is
1518 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1519 *2021*):

1520 (b) Effective July 1, 1998, the Labor Department shall be responsible
1521 for the negotiation, establishment, modification, extension, suspension
1522 or termination of contracts for employment services. The Labor
1523 Department may provide administration and services directly or
1524 through the [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1525 Governor's Workforce Council or regional workforce development
1526 boards.

1527 Sec. 36. Subsection (c) of section 17b-688i of the general statutes is
1528 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1529 *2021*):

1530 (c) Not later than January 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, the Labor
1531 Department shall submit a report to the Governor, the joint standing
1532 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1533 relating to appropriations, human services and labor and public
1534 employees and the [Connecticut Employment and Training
1535 Commission] Governor's Workforce Council. Each report shall contain
1536 an evaluation of the operation of the employment services administered
1537 by the Labor Department pursuant to this section, including the number
1538 of persons who receive employment services, their gender and
1539 outcomes. Each such report shall also provide specific information
1540 regarding the cost-effectiveness of the employment services.

1541 Sec. 37. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 31-2 of the general statutes
1542 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1543 *1, 2021*):

1544 (b) The commissioner shall administer the coordination of all

1545 employment and training programs in the state and shall implement the
1546 plan of the [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1547 Governor's Workforce Council as approved by the Governor. The
1548 commissioner shall develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory
1549 of all employment and training programs in the state, including a listing
1550 of all funding sources for each program, the characteristics of the
1551 persons served, a description of each program and its results and the
1552 identification of areas of program overlap and duplication.

1553 (c) The commissioner shall provide staff to the [Connecticut
1554 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council
1555 and such other resources as the commissioner can make available.

1556 Sec. 38. Section 31-3h of the general statutes is repealed and the
1557 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1558 (a) There is created, within the Labor Department, the [Connecticut
1559 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce
1560 Council.

1561 (b) The duties and responsibilities of the [commission] council shall
1562 include:

1563 (1) Carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a state job training
1564 coordinating council pursuant to the federal Job Training Partnership
1565 Act, 29 USC 1532, as amended from time to time, a state human resource
1566 investment council pursuant to 29 USC 1501 et seq., as amended from
1567 time to time, and such other related entities as the Governor may direct;

1568 (2) Reviewing all employment and training programs in the state to
1569 determine their success in leading to and obtaining the goal of economic
1570 self-sufficiency and to determine if such programs are serving the needs
1571 of Connecticut's workers, employers and economy;

1572 (3) Reviewing and commenting on all employment and training
1573 programs enacted by the General Assembly;

1574 (4) Implementing the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity

1575 Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from time to time. Such
1576 implementation shall include (A) developing, in consultation with the
1577 regional workforce development boards, a single Connecticut
1578 workforce development plan that (i) complies with the provisions of
1579 said act and section 31-11p, and (ii) includes comprehensive state
1580 performance measures for workforce development activities specified
1581 in Title I of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of
1582 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from time to time, which performance
1583 measures comply with the requirements of 20 CFR Part 666.100, (B)
1584 making recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the
1585 allocation of funds received by the state under said act and making
1586 recommendations to the regional workforce development boards
1587 concerning the use of formulas in allocating such funds to adult
1588 employment and job training activities and youth activities, as specified
1589 in said act, (C) providing oversight and coordination of the state-wide
1590 employment statistics system required by said act, (D) as appropriate,
1591 recommending to the Governor that the Governor apply for workforce
1592 flexibility plans and waiver authority under said act, after consultation
1593 with the regional workforce development boards, (E) developing
1594 performance criteria for regional workforce development boards to
1595 utilize in creating a list of eligible providers, and (F) on or before
1596 December 31, 1999, developing a uniform individual training accounts
1597 voucher system that shall be used by the regional workforce
1598 development boards to pay for training of eligible workers by eligible
1599 providers, as required under said act;

1600 (5) Developing and overseeing a plan for the continuous
1601 improvement of the regional workforce development boards
1602 established pursuant to section 31-3k;

1603 (6) Developing incumbent worker, and vocational and manpower
1604 training programs, including customized job training programs to
1605 enhance the productivity of Connecticut businesses and to increase the
1606 skills and earnings of underemployed and at-risk workers, and other
1607 programs administered by the regional workforce development boards.
1608 The Labor Department, in collaboration with the regional workforce

1609 development boards, shall implement any incumbent worker and
1610 customized job training programs developed by the commission
1611 pursuant to this subdivision;

1612 (7) Developing a strategy for providing comprehensive services to
1613 eligible youths, which strategy shall include developing youth
1614 preapprentice and apprentice programs through, but not limited to,
1615 technical education and career schools, and improving linkages
1616 between academic and occupational learning and other youth
1617 development activities; and

1618 (8) Coordinating an electronic state hiring campaign to encourage the
1619 reemployment of workers fifty years of age or older to be administered
1620 through the Labor Department's Internet web site, which shall include
1621 testimony from various employers that demonstrates the value of hiring
1622 and retaining workers fifty years of age or older. Not later than January
1623 1, 2015, the commission shall submit a report, in accordance with section
1624 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
1625 cognizance of matters relating to labor on the status of such campaign.

1626 Sec. 39. Section 31-3i of the general statutes is repealed and the
1627 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1628 (a) The members of the [Connecticut Employment and Training
1629 Commission] Governor's Workforce Council shall be appointed as
1630 specified in subsection (b) of this section.

1631 (b) (1) The [commission] council shall consist of twenty-four
1632 members, a majority of whom shall represent business and industry and
1633 the remainder of whom shall represent state and local governments,
1634 organized labor, education and community based organizations,
1635 including a representative of a community action agency, as defined in
1636 section 17b-885.

1637 (2) Effective six months after the United States Secretary of Labor
1638 approves the single Connecticut workforce development plan
1639 submitted to said secretary in accordance with the provisions of

1640 subsection (b) of section 31-11r, the Governor shall fill any vacancy on
1641 the [commission] council from recommendations submitted by the
1642 president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of
1643 Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of
1644 the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate and the
1645 minority leader of the House of Representatives.

1646 (c) [Members appointed to the commission prior to June 23, 1999,
1647 shall continue to serve on the commission as if they were appointed to
1648 the commission as of June 23, 1999. The commission] The council shall
1649 meet no less than once every calendar quarter.

1650 Sec. 40. Subdivision (2) of section 31-3j of the general statutes is
1651 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1652 *2021*):

1653 (2) ["Commission"] "Council" means the [Connecticut Employment
1654 and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council created
1655 under section 31-3h;

1656 Sec. 41. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 31-3w of the
1657 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1658 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1659 (1) Collaborate with the [Connecticut Employment and Training
1660 Commission] Governor's Workforce Council established pursuant to
1661 section 31-3h and the regional workforce development boards
1662 established pursuant to section 31-3k;

1663 Sec. 42. Section 31-3cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
1664 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1665 The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1666 Governor's Workforce Council, in cooperation with the Commission on
1667 Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity and the
1668 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, shall regularly
1669 collect and analyze data on state-supported training programs that
1670 measure the presence of gender or other systematic bias and work with

1671 the relevant boards and agencies to correct any problems that are found.

1672 Sec. 43. Section 31-3dd of the general statutes is repealed and the
1673 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1674 The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1675 Governor's Workforce Council, in consultation with the Labor
1676 Department, the Department of Economic and Community
1677 Development and the regional workforce development boards, shall
1678 recommend to the Office of Policy and Management and the joint
1679 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1680 matters relating to appropriations, budget targets for assisting state
1681 employers with their training needs.

1682 Sec. 44. Section 31-3ii of the general statutes is repealed and the
1683 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1684 (a) Within available appropriations, for the fiscal years ending June
1685 30, 2004, to June 30, 2006, inclusive, the [Connecticut Employment and
1686 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council, in cooperation
1687 with a consenting regional workforce development board, shall
1688 establish a pilot program that allows such board to use funds allocated
1689 to such board to expand an existing adult education program at a local
1690 or regional board of education within such regional workforce
1691 development board's region to enable incumbent workers to participate
1692 in such adult education program. For purposes of this section,
1693 "incumbent workers" means individuals who are employed in this state,
1694 but who are in need of additional skills, training or education in order
1695 to upgrade employment.

1696 (b) Not later than January 1, 2007, the [commission] council shall
1697 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to
1698 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
1699 cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment
1700 advancement and education on the establishment and any operation of
1701 the pilot program authorized under subsection (a) of this section.

1702 Sec. 45. Section 31-300 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1703 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1704 The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1705 Governor's Workforce Council, in collaboration with the Connecticut
1706 Energy Sector Partnership, shall annually solicit and publicize
1707 information concerning efforts made by the institutions of higher
1708 education in this state to promote the green technology industry,
1709 including the development of new academic degree and certificate
1710 programs, courses of instruction and initiatives made by such
1711 institutions to align green jobs programs with employer needs.

1712 Sec. 46. Section 31-3yy of the general statutes is repealed and the
1713 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1714 On or before October 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
1715 [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission] Governor's
1716 Workforce Council shall submit to the Office of Policy and Management
1717 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
1718 cognizance of matters relating to labor, higher education and education
1719 a report card of each program emphasizing employment placement
1720 included in the [commission's] council's annual inventory developed
1721 and maintained by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to section 31-2.
1722 The report card shall, at a minimum, identify for each program the cost,
1723 number of individuals entering the program, number of individuals
1724 satisfactorily completing the program and the employment placement
1725 rates of those individuals at thirteen and twenty-six-week intervals
1726 following completion of the program or a statement as to why such
1727 measure is not relevant.

1728 Sec. 47. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-11m of the
1729 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1730 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1731 (2) Such reserved funds may be used only to carry out state-wide
1732 youth activities described in Section 129(b) of the federal Workforce
1733 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to

1734 time amended, or state-wide employment and training activities, for
1735 adults or for dislocated workers, described in Section 134(a)(2)(B) or
1736 Section 134(a)(3) of said act, provided such use is consistent with the
1737 Connecticut workforce development plan developed by the
1738 [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission] Governor's
1739 Workforce Council under section 31-11p, as amended by this act. The
1740 percentage of such reserved funds that are used for administrative costs
1741 shall be consistent with the provisions of Section 134(a)(3)(B) of said act.
1742 For purposes of this subdivision and subdivision (3) of this subsection,
1743 "administrative costs" has the same meaning as in 20 CFR Part 667,
1744 Subpart B.

1745 Sec. 48. Section 31-11o of the general statutes is repealed and the
1746 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1747 The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1748 Governor's Workforce Council established under section 31-3h is hereby
1749 recognized as the state-wide workforce development board for
1750 purposes of complying with the federal Workforce Innovation and
1751 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended.

1752 Sec. 49. Section 31-11p of the general statutes is repealed and the
1753 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1754 (a) The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
1755 Governor's Workforce Council, in consultation with the regional
1756 workforce development boards, shall develop a single Connecticut
1757 workforce development plan that outlines a five-year strategy for the
1758 state of Connecticut's workforce development system and meets the
1759 requirements of Sections 111 and 112 of the federal Workforce
1760 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to
1761 time amended. Said plan shall serve as a framework for the
1762 development of public policy, fiscal investment and operation of
1763 workforce education and job training programs and shall constitute the
1764 single state plan for purposes of Section 112 of said act. The [Connecticut
1765 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce
1766 Council, in consultation with the regional workforce development

1767 boards, shall update said plan at least once every five years.

1768 (b) The plan shall, at a minimum, include:

1769 (1) Long-term goals for the state's workforce development system.
1770 Such goals shall include local control of service delivery, one-stop
1771 delivery of services, individual choice for individuals served by the
1772 system, accountability for provider performance, coordination of
1773 workforce development activities integrating state and federal
1774 resources and the establishment of ties between funding and actual
1775 participation in training activities;

1776 (2) Short-term goals, benchmarks and performance measures that the
1777 state will use to measure its progress towards meeting the long-term
1778 goals identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection;

1779 (3) Identification of the role each institution, entity, organization and
1780 program plays in the state-wide workforce development system;

1781 (4) Ways to improve access to public and certified nonpublic
1782 postsecondary educational institutions;

1783 (5) A strategy for assessing unmet workforce preparation needs;

1784 (6) A description of comprehensive performance measures to ensure
1785 coordination and eliminate duplication of services;

1786 (7) A strategy for assessing types of jobs for which there are shortages
1787 of available qualified workers and the geographical concentration of
1788 unmet workforce needs in this state;

1789 (8) A strategy for maximizing or redirecting funding to deliver
1790 services more effectively to meet the state's workforce development
1791 needs;

1792 (9) A provision stating that the members of the [Connecticut
1793 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council
1794 and the regional workforce development boards shall comply with state
1795 ethics laws and the applicable provisions of Sections 111(f) and 117(g)

1796 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L.
1797 113-128, as from time to time amended;

1798 (10) A provision stating that the Labor Commissioner and the
1799 Commissioners of Social Services and Education shall develop a
1800 coordinated program of referring workforce development participants
1801 to supportive services, including, but not limited to, transportation and
1802 child care services for eligible participants of workforce activities. Such
1803 program shall include a requirement that each regional workforce
1804 development board submit an annual report to the [commission]
1805 council on or before January 31, 2000, and each January thirty-first
1806 thereafter detailing such board's plan for coordinating such supportive
1807 services;

1808 (11) A description of the state of Connecticut's proposed one-stop
1809 delivery system, which shall be consistent with the provisions of Section
1810 134(c) of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014,
1811 P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended, and shall include a
1812 description of the following components: (A) A uniform individual
1813 training accounts voucher system which shall be used by the regional
1814 workforce development boards to pay for training of eligible workers
1815 by eligible providers and which shall include a reporting system that
1816 ties funding to actual participation in training programs, (B) the core
1817 services, as identified in subdivision (12) of this subsection, which shall
1818 be available to adults or dislocated workers, including exemptions from
1819 core services, (C) the intensive services, as identified in subdivision (13)
1820 of this subsection, which shall be available to adults or dislocated
1821 workers who have received the maximum amount of core services but
1822 were unable to obtain employment through such core services,
1823 including prerequisites for obtaining such intensive services and
1824 exemptions from such prerequisites, and (D) the training services, as
1825 identified in subdivision (14) of this subsection, which shall be available
1826 to adults or dislocated workers who have received intensive services,
1827 but were unable to obtain unsubsidized employment through such
1828 intensive services, including prerequisites for obtaining such training
1829 services and exemptions from such prerequisites;

1830 (12) Identification of core services available under the one-stop
1831 delivery system, which shall, at a minimum, include: (A) Determination
1832 of whether individuals are eligible to receive assistance under Subtitle B
1833 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L.
1834 113-128, as from time to time amended; (B) outreach, intake and
1835 orientation to the information and other services available through the
1836 one-stop delivery system; (C) a uniform assessment procedure for
1837 screening adults and dislocated workers which shall include, but not be
1838 limited to, initial assessment of skill levels, aptitudes, abilities,
1839 supportive service needs and for application of the self-sufficiency
1840 measurement developed in accordance with the provisions of section 4-
1841 66e; (D) job search and placement assistance and, where appropriate,
1842 career counseling; (E) provision of (i) employment statistics
1843 information, including the provision of accurate information concerning
1844 local, regional and national labor market areas, including job vacancy
1845 listings in such labor market areas, information on job skills necessary
1846 to obtain such vacant jobs and information relating to local occupations
1847 in demand and the earnings and skill requirements for such
1848 occupations; (ii) provider performance information and program cost
1849 information on eligible providers of training services, as described in
1850 Section 122 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of
1851 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended, provided by program,
1852 and eligible providers of youth activities described in Section 123 of said
1853 act, eligible providers of adult education described in Title II of said act,
1854 providers of postsecondary vocational education activities and
1855 vocational education activities, which shall include, but not be limited
1856 to, preapprentice programs available through, but not limited to, the
1857 Technical Education and Career System, available to school dropouts
1858 under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology
1859 Education Act, 20 USC 2301, et seq., and providers of vocational
1860 rehabilitation program activities described in Title I of the Rehabilitation
1861 Act of 1973, 29 USC 720, et seq.; (iii) information regarding how the local
1862 area is performing on the local performance measures and any
1863 additional performance information with respect to the one-stop
1864 delivery system in the local area; (iv) accurate information concerning

1865 the availability of supportive services, including child care and
1866 transportation, available through the local area and referral to such
1867 services, as appropriate; (v) information regarding filing claims for
1868 unemployment compensation under chapter 567; (F) assistance in
1869 establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for
1870 training and education programs that are not funded under said act and
1871 are available through the local area; (G) follow-up services, including
1872 counseling regarding the workplace, for participants in workforce
1873 investment activities authorized under Subtitle B of the federal
1874 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
1875 from time to time amended, who are placed in unsubsidized
1876 employment, for not less than twelve months after the first day of the
1877 employment, as appropriate; and (H) assistance in establishing
1878 eligibility for authorized activities under Section 403(a)(5) of the Social
1879 Security Act, as added by Section 5001 of the Balanced Budget Act of
1880 1997, available in the local area. For purposes of this subdivision, "local
1881 area" refers to an area designated as such pursuant to Section 116 of the
1882 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-
1883 128, as from time to time amended;

1884 (13) Identification of intensive services available under the one-stop
1885 delivery system, which services may include (A) comprehensive and
1886 specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of adults
1887 and dislocated workers, which may include diagnostic testing, use of
1888 special education planning and placement teams and use of other
1889 assessment tools and in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify
1890 employment barriers and appropriate employment goals; (B)
1891 development of an individual employment plan to identify the
1892 employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives and appropriate
1893 combination of services for the participant to achieve the employment
1894 goals; (C) group counseling; (D) individual counseling and career
1895 planning; (E) case management for participants seeking training
1896 services authorized under the federal Workforce Innovation and
1897 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended;
1898 and (F) short-term prevocational services, including development of
1899 learning skills, communication skills, interviewing skills, punctuality,

1900 personal maintenance skills and professional conduct, to prepare
1901 individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

1902 (14) Identification of training services authorized under the federal
1903 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
1904 from time to time amended, that are available under the one-stop
1905 delivery system, which services may include a combination of
1906 occupational skills training, including training for nontraditional
1907 employment, on-the-job training, programs that combine workplace
1908 training with related instruction, which may include cooperative
1909 education programs, training programs operated by the private sector,
1910 skill upgrading and retraining, entrepreneurial training, job readiness
1911 training, adult education and literacy activities and customized job
1912 training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of
1913 employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the
1914 training;

1915 (15) Development of a uniform system of identifying and certifying
1916 eligible providers of the training services described in subdivision (13)
1917 of this subsection, which system shall (A) incorporate each of the
1918 requirements of Section 122 of the federal Workforce Innovation and
1919 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended,
1920 and (B) be used by each regional workforce development board in
1921 selecting an eligible provider of training services;

1922 (16) A strategy for the establishment of (A) regional youth councils
1923 by the regional workforce development boards, which regional youth
1924 councils shall (i) recommend eligible providers of youth activities to the
1925 council and conduct oversight of eligible providers of youth activities;
1926 (ii) in cooperation with local boards of education, identify available
1927 programs and activities to assist youths in completing education
1928 programs; (iii) identify available programs and activities to assist youths
1929 in securing and preserving employment; and (iv) coordinate youth
1930 activities with Job Corps services, coordinate youth activities authorized
1931 under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014,
1932 P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended, and improve the connection

1933 between court-involved youths and the state labor market; and (B)
1934 criteria for selection of regional youth council members and awarding
1935 youth program grants for state-wide youth activities described in
1936 Section 129(b) of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
1937 of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended;

1938 (17) Development of a program to provide job readiness and job
1939 search training to unemployed and underemployed noncustodial
1940 parents no later than July 1, 2000;

1941 (18) Development of a career pathways program to link alternative
1942 education programs to regional community-technical colleges and
1943 work-related learning no later than October 1, 2000; and

1944 (19) Any other provisions required to be included in the plan under
1945 Sections 111 and 112 of the federal Workforce Innovation and
1946 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended.

1947 (c) The Governor may submit modifications to the single Connecticut
1948 workforce development plan approved by the United States Secretary
1949 of Labor as necessary during the five-year period covered by the plan,
1950 with the advice and assistance of the [Connecticut Employment and
1951 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council, provided such
1952 modifications are (1) approved by the joint standing committees of the
1953 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1954 appropriations, education, labor and social services, and (2) consistent
1955 with the requirements of Sections 111 and 112 of the federal Workforce
1956 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to
1957 time amended.

1958 Sec. 50. Section 31-11q of the general statutes is repealed and the
1959 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1960 On or before October 15, 1999, the [Connecticut Employment and
1961 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council shall submit to
1962 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
1963 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, education, labor and

1964 social services the comprehensive state performance measures
1965 developed by said [commission] council in accordance with the
1966 provisions of subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 31-3h for
1967 activities specified in Title I of the federal Workforce Innovation and
1968 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended,
1969 and annually thereafter during any year in which such performance
1970 measures are modified.

1971 Sec. 51. Section 31-11r of the general statutes is repealed and the
1972 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1973 (a) On or before January 1, 2000, the [Connecticut Employment and
1974 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council shall submit a
1975 single Workforce Development Plan to the Governor, which plan shall
1976 (1) be approved by the General Assembly, (2) comply with the
1977 requirements of section 31-11p, and (3) comply with the requirements
1978 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L.
1979 13-128, as from time to time amended.

1980 (b) On or before March 15, 2000, the Governor shall submit a single
1981 Connecticut Workforce Development Plan to the United States
1982 Secretary of Labor, which plan shall satisfy the requirements of
1983 subsection (a) of this section.

1984 (c) The Governor shall submit to the United States Secretary of Labor
1985 any appropriate or necessary request for waiver of the statutory or
1986 regulatory requirements of the federal Workforce Innovation and
1987 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 13-128, as from time to time amended,
1988 with the advice and assistance of the [Connecticut Employment and
1989 Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council.

1990 Sec. 52. Section 31-11s of the general statutes is repealed and the
1991 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1992 (a) On or before February 9, 2000, and annually thereafter, the
1993 [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission] Governor's
1994 Workforce Council shall make recommendations consistent with the

1995 provisions of the single Connecticut workforce development plan
1996 submitted to the Governor pursuant to section 31-11r to the Governor
1997 and the General Assembly concerning the appropriation of funds
1998 received for adult workforce development activities under the federal
1999 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
2000 from time to time amended, for (1) job-related vocational, literacy,
2001 language or numerical skills training; (2) underemployed and at-risk
2002 workers; (3) individuals with barriers to full-time, stable employment,
2003 including language, basic skills and occupational literacy barriers; (4)
2004 vocational training using apprentice and preapprentice programs and
2005 customized job training programs that are designed to serve at-risk
2006 workers and promote job retention and the obtainment of higher wage
2007 jobs; (5) special incentives for programs that successfully train (A)
2008 women for nontraditional employment, and (B) minorities for
2009 occupations or fields of work in which such minorities are
2010 underrepresented; and (6) special grants or contracts in each region for
2011 training programs that target workers who are difficult to serve,
2012 including, but not limited to, workers (A) with limited literacy or
2013 numerical skills, (B) without a high school diploma or its equivalent, or
2014 (C) for whom English is a second language. For purposes of this section,
2015 "nontraditional employment" refers to occupations or fields of work for
2016 which women comprise less than twenty-five per cent of the individuals
2017 employed in each such occupation or field of work.

2018 (b) On or before February 9, 2000, and annually thereafter, the
2019 [commission] council shall make recommendations to the Governor and
2020 the General Assembly concerning the appropriation of funds received
2021 under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014,
2022 P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended, for dislocated workers.

2023 (c) Pursuant to Section 189(i)(4)(A) of the federal Workforce
2024 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to
2025 time amended, the Governor is authorized by the General Assembly to
2026 apply for a waiver of federal eligibility requirements to allow incumbent
2027 workers with annual family incomes that do not exceed two hundred
2028 per cent of the poverty level guidelines issued by the federal

2029 Department of Health and Human Services to receive job training
2030 services.

2031 Sec. 53. Section 31-11t of the general statutes is repealed and the
2032 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2033 (a) The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
2034 Governor's Workforce Council shall provide each regional workforce
2035 development board with criteria for the evaluation of funded programs,
2036 including a description of the amount, type and effectiveness of literacy
2037 training provided to participants, the number of persons completing job
2038 training, the gender and race of persons who receive training,
2039 occupational skill types, the number of persons who enter unsubsidized
2040 employment, the number of persons who remain in unsubsidized
2041 employment six months later and the earnings received by such
2042 persons.

2043 (b) The [commission] council shall develop an education and job
2044 training report card to assess the accomplishments of Connecticut's
2045 workforce development system and for meeting the accountability
2046 requirements of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
2047 of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended. The report card
2048 shall address the effectiveness of such system in meeting (1) employers'
2049 needs for educated and trained workers, and (2) clients' needs for
2050 improving their economic well-being.

2051 Sec. 54. Subsection (b) of section 31-11ff of the general statutes is
2052 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2053 *2021*):

2054 (b) The [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
2055 Governor's Workforce Council shall develop, in collaboration with the
2056 Connecticut state colleges and universities, Department of Education,
2057 and regional work force development boards established pursuant to
2058 section 31-3j, a state-wide plan for implementing, expanding or
2059 improving upon career certificate programs established under section
2060 10-20a, middle college programs, early college high school programs

2061 and Connecticut Early College Opportunity programs to provide
2062 education, training and placement in jobs available in the
2063 manufacturing, health care, construction, green, science, technology,
2064 computer science, engineering and mathematics industries and other
2065 emerging sectors of the state's economy. Such plan shall include a
2066 proposal to fund such programs.

2067 Sec. 55. Subsection (b) of section 31-11jj of the general statutes is
2068 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2069 *2021*):

2070 (b) The Workforce Training Authority Fund shall be used by the
2071 administrator: (1) To provide training assistance to eligible recipients as
2072 may be approved by the Workforce Training Authority pursuant to
2073 subsection (e) of this section, and (2) to pay or reimburse the
2074 administrator for administrative costs pursuant to subsection (h) of this
2075 section. Such training assistance shall be awarded for the purpose of:
2076 Developing and implementing training programs for the recruitment of
2077 businesses to the state and the training or retraining of persons in the
2078 state to achieve the workforce goals established by the [Connecticut
2079 Employment and Training Commission] Governor's Workforce Council
2080 and the relevant sections of the strategic master plan for higher
2081 education developed pursuant to section 10a-11b. Training assistance
2082 shall target job growth in the areas of construction, health care, early
2083 childhood education, insurance, financial services, bioscience, advance
2084 manufacturing, digital media, green technology, and tourism.

2085 Sec. 56. Subsection (j) of section 31-11jj of the general statutes is
2086 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2087 *2021*):

2088 (j) The administrator shall consult with the office of apprenticeship
2089 training, the [Connecticut Employment and Training Commission]
2090 Governor's Workforce Council, the Planning Commission on Higher
2091 Education and the administrator of the Connecticut Manufacturing
2092 Innovation Fund to ensure coordination and compatibility of the
2093 development and implementation of training programs awarded by the

2094 Workforce Training Authority.

2095 Sec. 57. Subsection (a) of section 4-124z of the general statutes is
2096 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2097 *2021*):

2098 (a) The Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of Economic and
2099 Community Development, working with the Office of Workforce
2100 [Competitiveness] Strategy, the Commissioners of Education and Social
2101 Services, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the
2102 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, in
2103 consultation with the superintendent of the Technical Education and
2104 Career System and one member of industry representing each of the
2105 economic clusters identified by the Commissioner of Economic and
2106 Community Development pursuant to section 32-1m shall (1) review,
2107 evaluate and, as necessary, recommend improvements for certification
2108 and degree programs offered by the Technical Education and Career
2109 System and the community-technical college system to ensure that such
2110 programs meet the employment needs of business and industry, and (2)
2111 develop strategies to strengthen the linkage between skill standards for
2112 education and training and the employment needs of business and
2113 industry.

2114 Sec. 58. Section 4-124gg of the general statutes is repealed and the
2115 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2116 Not later than October 1, 2012, the Labor Commissioner, with the
2117 assistance of the Office of Workforce [Competitiveness] Strategy and in
2118 consultation with the superintendent of the Technical Education and
2119 Career System, shall create an integrated system of state-wide industry
2120 advisory committees for each career cluster offered as part of the
2121 Technical Education and Career System and regional community-
2122 technical college system. Said committees shall include industry
2123 representatives of the specific career cluster. Each committee for a career
2124 cluster shall, with support from the Labor Department, Technical
2125 Education and Career System, regional community-technical college
2126 system and the Department of Education, establish specific skills

2127 standards, corresponding curriculum and a career ladder for the cluster
2128 which shall be implemented as part of the schools' core curriculum.

2129 Sec. 59. Section 4-124tt of the general statutes is repealed and the
2130 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2131 Within available appropriations, the Office of Workforce
2132 [Competitiveness] Strategy, within the [Labor] Department of Economic
2133 and Community Development, may establish a pilot program to
2134 provide any eligible individual with a minor dependent access to
2135 training in order to obtain skills and credentials necessary to obtain and
2136 maintain employment. Such skills and credentials may include, but
2137 need not be limited to (1) a high school diploma or its equivalent; (2) an
2138 alternative degree; (3) English as a second language training; and (4)
2139 vocational training. For purposes of this section, an eligible individual
2140 is an individual who would qualify for benefits under the temporary
2141 assistance for needy families program pursuant to Title IV-A of the
2142 Social Security Act.

2143 Sec. 60. Section 4-124vv of the general statutes is repealed and the
2144 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2145 The Labor Department, working with [its] the Office of Workforce
2146 [Competitiveness] Strategy, shall, within available appropriations, fund
2147 Connecticut Career Choices.

2148 Sec. 61. Subsection (a) of section 10-21c of the general statutes is
2149 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2150 *2021*):

2151 (a) Any local or regional board of education that has a demonstrated
2152 shortage of certified teachers in those fields designated by the State
2153 Board of Education or that elects to expand the academic offerings to
2154 students in the areas identified by the Labor Commissioner and the
2155 Office of Workforce [Competitiveness] Strategy pursuant to the
2156 provisions of section 4-124w may solicit and accept qualified private
2157 sector specialists, not necessarily certified to teach, whose services to

2158 teach in shortage areas have been donated by business firms, as defined
2159 in section 12-631. Private sector specialists who donate their services
2160 may be permitted to offer instruction in existing or specially designed
2161 curricula, provided no private sector specialist shall be permitted to
2162 work more than one-half of the maximum classroom hours of a full-time
2163 certified teacher, and provided further no private sector specialist
2164 teaching in an area identified by the Labor Commissioner and the Office
2165 of Workforce [Competitiveness] Strategy pursuant to section 4-124w
2166 shall have sole responsibility for a classroom. No certified teacher may
2167 be terminated, transferred or reassigned due to the utilization of any
2168 private sector specialist. Local or regional boards of education shall
2169 annually review the need for private sector specialists and shall not
2170 renew or place a private sector specialist if certified teachers are
2171 available.

2172 Sec. 62. Subsection (a) of section 10-74n of the general statutes is
2173 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2174 *2021*):

2175 (a) The State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Bureau of
2176 Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Developmental Services and
2177 the Office of Workforce [Competitiveness] Strategy, shall: (1)
2178 Coordinate the provision of transition resources, services and programs
2179 to children requiring special education and related services, (2) create,
2180 and update as necessary, a fact sheet that lists the state agencies that
2181 provide transition resources, services and programs and a brief
2182 description of such transition resources, services and programs and
2183 disseminate such fact sheet to local and regional boards of education for
2184 distribution to parents, teachers, administrators and boards of
2185 education, and (3) annually collect information related to transition
2186 resources, programs and services provided by other state agencies and
2187 make such information available to parents, teachers, administrators
2188 and boards of education.

2189 Sec. 63. Subsection (b) of section 10a-19d of the general statutes is
2190 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

2191 2021):

2192 (b) The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
2193 in consultation with the [Labor Department's] Office of Workforce
2194 [Competitiveness] Strategy, the Department of Education, the
2195 Department of Social Services, Charter Oak State College, early
2196 childhood education faculty at two and four-year public and
2197 independent institutions of higher education, early childhood education
2198 professional associations, early childhood education advocates and
2199 practitioners, and persons knowledgeable in the area of career
2200 development and programs in early childhood care and education, shall
2201 define the preservice and minimum training requirements and
2202 competencies for persons involved in early childhood education, from
2203 birth to five years of age, including requirements for individual levels
2204 of early childhood credentialing and licensing.

2205 Sec. 64. Section 10a-55g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2206 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2207 Not later than July 1, 2020, the Office of Higher Education and the
2208 Labor Department shall each publish on their respective Internet web
2209 sites the career ladder for jobs in the green technology industry
2210 established and updated by the Office of Workforce [Competitiveness]
2211 Strategy in accordance with section 31-3rr, as amended by this act, and
2212 an inventory of green jobs related equipment used by technical
2213 education and career schools and institutions of higher education.

2214 Sec. 65. Section 31-2d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2215 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2216 Any order or regulation of the Office of Workforce [Competitiveness]
2217 Strategy affecting the functions, powers, duties and obligations set forth
2218 in this section and sections 4-124w, as amended by this act, 4-124z, as
2219 amended by this act, 4-124ff, 4-124gg, as amended by this act, 4-124hh,
2220 4-124tt, as amended by this act, and 4-124vv, as amended by this act,
2221 which is in force on July 1, 2011, shall continue in force and effect as an
2222 order or regulation of the [Labor Department] Department of Economic

2223 and Community Development until amended, repealed or superseded
2224 pursuant to law. Where any orders or regulations of said office and said
2225 department conflict, the [Labor] Commissioner of Economic and
2226 Community Development may implement policies and procedures
2227 consistent with the provisions of this section and sections 4-124w, as
2228 amended by this act, 4-124z, as amended by this act, 4-124ff, 4-124gg, as
2229 amended by this act, 4-124hh, 4-124tt, as amended by this act, 4-124vv,
2230 as amended by this act, 10-95h, 10a-11b, 10a-19d, as amended by this
2231 act, 31-3h, as amended by this act, and 31-3k while in the process of
2232 adopting the policy or procedure in regulation form, provided notice of
2233 intention to adopt regulations is printed in the Connecticut Law Journal
2234 not later than twenty days after implementation. The policy or
2235 procedure shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

2236 Sec. 66. Subsection (b) of section 31-3rr of the general statutes is
2237 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2238 *2021*):

2239 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Office of Workforce
2240 [Competitiveness] Strategy, in consultation with the Office of Higher
2241 Education, Department of Education, Labor Department, Department
2242 of Energy and Environmental Protection, regional workforce
2243 development boards and employers, shall, within available
2244 appropriations, establish a career ladder for jobs in the green technology
2245 industry, including, but not limited to, a listing of (1) careers at each
2246 level of the green technology industry and the requisite level of
2247 education and the salary offered for such career, (2) all course, certificate
2248 and degree programs in green jobs offered by technical education and
2249 career schools within the Technical Education and Career System and
2250 institutions of higher education in the state, and (3) jobs available in the
2251 green technology industry in the state. The Office of Workforce
2252 [Competitiveness] Strategy shall update the green jobs career ladder
2253 established pursuant to this section on an as needed basis.

2254 Sec. 67. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 31-3k of the general statutes
2255 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

2256 1, 2021):

2257 (b) Each board, within its region, shall:

2258 (1) Carry out the duties and responsibilities of a private industry
2259 council under the Job Training Partnership Act, provided the private
2260 industry council within the region elects by a vote of its members to
2261 become a board and the Labor Commissioner approves the council as a
2262 regional work force development board.

2263 (2) Within existing resources and consistent with the state
2264 employment and training information system and any guidelines issued
2265 by the commissioner under subsection (b) of section 31-2, (A) assess
2266 regional needs and identify regional priorities for employment and
2267 training programs, including, but not limited to, an assessment of the
2268 special employment needs of unskilled and low-skilled unemployed
2269 persons, including persons receiving state-administered general
2270 assistance or short-term unemployment assistance, (B) conduct
2271 planning for regional employment and training programs, (C)
2272 coordinate such programs to ensure that the programs respond to the
2273 needs of labor, business and industry, municipalities within the region,
2274 the region as a whole, and all of its citizens, (D) serve as a clearinghouse
2275 for information on all employment and training programs in the region,
2276 (E) prepare and submit an annual plan containing the board's priorities
2277 and goals for regional employment and training programs to the
2278 commissioner and the [commission] council for their review and
2279 approval, (F) review grant proposals and plans submitted to state
2280 agencies for employment and training programs that directly affect the
2281 region to determine whether such proposals and plans are consistent
2282 with the annual regional plan prepared under subparagraph (E) of this
2283 subdivision and inform the [commission] council and each state agency
2284 concerned of the results of the review, (G) evaluate the effectiveness of
2285 employment and training programs within the region in meeting the
2286 goals contained in the annual regional plan prepared under
2287 subparagraph (E) of this subdivision and report its findings to the
2288 commissioner and the [commission] council on an annual basis, (H)

2289 ensure the effective use of available employment and training resources
2290 in the region, and (I) allocate funds where applicable for program
2291 operations in the region.

2292 (3) Provide information to the commissioner concerning (A) all
2293 employment and training programs, grants or funds to be effective or
2294 available in the region in the following program year, (B) the source and
2295 purpose of such programs, grants or funds, (C) the projected amount of
2296 such programs, grants or funds, (D) persons, organizations and
2297 institutions eligible to participate in such programs or receive such
2298 grants or funds, (E) characteristics of clients eligible to receive services
2299 pursuant to such programs, grants or funds, (F) the range of services
2300 available pursuant to such programs, grants or funds, (G) goals of such
2301 programs, grants or funds, (H) where applicable, schedules for
2302 submitting requests for proposals, planning instructions, proposals and
2303 plans, in connection with such programs, grants or funds, (I) the
2304 program period for such programs, grants or funds, and (J) any other
2305 data relating to such programs, grants or funds that the commissioner
2306 or the [commission] council deems essential for effective state planning.

2307 (4) Carry out the duties and responsibilities of the local board for
2308 purposes of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of
2309 2014, P.L. 113-128, as from time to time amended.

2310 (5) Establish a worker training education committee comprised of
2311 persons from the education and business communities within the
2312 region, including, but not limited to, regional community-technical
2313 colleges and technical education and career schools.

2314 (c) Each board shall make use of grants or contracts with appropriate
2315 service providers to furnish all program services under sections 31-3j to
2316 31-3r, inclusive, unless the [commission] council concurs with the board
2317 that direct provision of a service by the board is necessary to assure
2318 adequate availability of the service or that a service of comparable
2319 quality can be provided more economically by the board. Any board
2320 seeking to provide services directly shall include in the annual regional
2321 plan submitted to the commissioner and the [commission] council

2322 under subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
2323 section its plan to provide services directly and appropriate justification
2324 for the need to do so. When the decision to provide services directly
2325 must be made between annual planning cycles, the board shall submit
2326 to the commissioner and the [commission] council a plan of service and
2327 appropriate justification for the need to provide services directly. Such
2328 plan of service shall be subject to review and approval by the
2329 [commission] council.

2330 Sec. 68. Section 31-3m of the general statutes is repealed and the
2331 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2332 Not later than July 1, 1992, and annually thereafter, the Governor
2333 shall designate appropriate state agencies as agencies involved in
2334 employment and training. The department heads of each agency
2335 involved in employment and training shall: (1) Not later than August
2336 15, 1992, and annually thereafter, identify the employment and training
2337 programs administered by the agency that shall be subject to oversight
2338 by one or more boards under the provisions of sections 31-3j to 31-3r,
2339 inclusive; and (2) provide to the commissioner, for distribution to the
2340 boards through the [commission] council, information concerning (A)
2341 all employment and training programs, grants or funds to be effective
2342 or available in the following program year, (B) the source and purpose
2343 of such programs, grants or funds, (C) the projected amount of such
2344 programs, grants or funds, (D) persons, organizations and institutions
2345 eligible to participate in such programs or receive such grants or funds,
2346 (E) characteristics of clients eligible to receive services pursuant to such
2347 programs, grants or funds, (F) the range of services available pursuant
2348 to such programs, grants or funds, (G) goals of such programs, grants
2349 or funds, (H) where applicable, schedules for submitting requests for
2350 proposals, planning instructions, proposals and plans, in connection
2351 with such programs, grants or funds, (I) the program period for such
2352 programs, grants or funds, and (J) any other data relating to such
2353 programs, grants or funds that the commissioner or the [commission]
2354 council deems essential for effective regional planning.

2355 Sec. 69. Section 31-3n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2356 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2357 (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the [commission] council,
2358 shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to carry out the
2359 provisions of sections 31-3j to 31-3r, inclusive. The regulations shall
2360 establish criteria for the organization and operation of the board and for
2361 ensuring that the membership of each board satisfies the requirements
2362 of section 31-3l.

2363 (b) The commissioner, acting through the [commission] council, shall
2364 facilitate communication and exchange of information between the
2365 boards and state agencies involved in employment and training.

2366 (c) The commissioner shall distribute all information received under
2367 the provisions of sections 31-3j to 31-3r, inclusive, to the [commission]
2368 council in order to ensure that the review and coordination duties of the
2369 [commission] council are effectively carried out.

2370 (d) The commissioner shall submit each annual regional plan
2371 prepared pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection
2372 (b) of section 31-3k, together with the recommendations of the
2373 commissioner and the [commission] council, to the Governor for final
2374 approval.

2375 (e) The commissioner shall approve, in consultation with the
2376 [commission] council, each board established pursuant to section 31-3k
2377 which meets the requirements of sections 31-3j to 31-3r, inclusive.

2378 Sec. 70. Section 31-3o of the general statutes is repealed and the
2379 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2380 (a) The [commission] council shall review and approve each annual
2381 regional plan prepared pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2)
2382 of subsection (b) of section 31-3k.

2383 (b) The [commission] council shall ensure that the membership of
2384 each board satisfies the representation requirements of section 31-3l and

2385 regulations adopted by the commissioner under section 31-3n.

2386 (c) The [commission] council shall review and consider the annual
2387 report of each board evaluating the effectiveness of employment and
2388 training programs, prepared pursuant to subparagraph (G) of
2389 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-3k.

2390 Sec. 71. Section 31-3p of the general statutes is repealed and the
2391 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2392 In any case where a board, after review, determines that a grant
2393 proposal or plan submitted to a state agency involved in employment
2394 and training is inconsistent with the board's annual regional plan
2395 prepared pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection
2396 (b) of section 31-3k, the board shall notify the agency in writing of its
2397 determination and may request a response from the agency. The agency,
2398 if so requested, shall respond to the inconsistency noted by the board
2399 and shall make every effort to resolve the issues involved. If such issues
2400 cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the board, the board may appeal
2401 to the [commission] council. The [commission] council shall review the
2402 subject matter of the appeal and recommend a resolution to the
2403 commissioner, who shall render an opinion consistent with applicable
2404 state and federal law.

2405 Sec. 72. Section 31-3q of the general statutes is repealed and the
2406 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

2407 All state employment and training programs shall be consistent with
2408 any guidelines issued by the commissioner under subsection (b) of
2409 section 31-2 and the annual plan for the coordination of all employment
2410 and training programs in the state developed by the [commission]
2411 council and approved by the Governor under section 31-3h.

2412 Sec. 73. Sections 10a-57a, 10a-57b, 10a-57c and 10a-57e of the general
2413 statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2021*)

2414 Sec. 74. Section 3 of public act 16-44 is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2021*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-124w
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-34(l)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-35a
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-225a(j)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	12-15(b)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-221a(j)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-221a(c)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-221a
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-221a
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-69(b)
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-184
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-5(a)
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-220g
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	10a-223
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	1-210(b)
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-21j(a)
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-95s(a)
Sec. 35	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-688h(b)
Sec. 36	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-688i(c)
Sec. 37	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-2(b) and (c)
Sec. 38	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-3h

Sec. 39	July 1, 2021	31-3i
Sec. 40	July 1, 2021	31-3j(2)
Sec. 41	July 1, 2021	31-3w(b)(1)
Sec. 42	July 1, 2021	31-3cc
Sec. 43	July 1, 2021	31-3dd
Sec. 44	July 1, 2021	31-3ii
Sec. 45	July 1, 2021	31-3oo
Sec. 46	July 1, 2021	31-3yy
Sec. 47	July 1, 2021	31-11m(b)(2)
Sec. 48	July 1, 2021	31-11o
Sec. 49	July 1, 2021	31-11p
Sec. 50	July 1, 2021	31-11q
Sec. 51	July 1, 2021	31-11r
Sec. 52	July 1, 2021	31-11s
Sec. 53	July 1, 2021	31-11t
Sec. 54	July 1, 2021	31-11ff(b)
Sec. 55	July 1, 2021	31-11jj(b)
Sec. 56	July 1, 2021	31-11jj(j)
Sec. 57	July 1, 2021	4-124z(a)
Sec. 58	July 1, 2021	4-124gg
Sec. 59	July 1, 2021	4-124tt
Sec. 60	July 1, 2021	4-124vv
Sec. 61	July 1, 2021	10-21c(a)
Sec. 62	July 1, 2021	10-74n(a)
Sec. 63	July 1, 2021	10a-19d(b)
Sec. 64	July 1, 2021	10a-55g
Sec. 65	July 1, 2021	31-2d
Sec. 66	July 1, 2021	31-3rr(b)
Sec. 67	July 1, 2021	31-3k(b) and (c)
Sec. 68	July 1, 2021	31-3m
Sec. 69	July 1, 2021	31-3n
Sec. 70	July 1, 2021	31-3o
Sec. 71	July 1, 2021	31-3p
Sec. 72	July 1, 2021	31-3q
Sec. 73	July 1, 2021	Repealer section
Sec. 74	July 1, 2021	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b)(13), "primary and secondary school" was changed to "elementary and high school" for consistency with standard drafting

conventions; in Section 1(b)(14), "of such industries" was inserted for clarity; in Section 1(c), "its" was changed to "the Chief Workforce Officer's or the Office of Workforce Strategy's" for clarity; in Section 1, Subsecs. (b)(11) and (f) were redrafted and the first phrase of Subsec. (b)(15) was moved to the end of the Subsec. and designated as Subdiv. (17) for clarity; in Section 10, "program" was changed to "Community Eligibility Provision" for clarity; in Section 11, Subparas. (A) and (B) were redesignated as Subdivs. (3) and (4) for consistency; in Sections 21 and 22, "an emancipated minor" was changed to "a legally emancipated minor" for accuracy; in Section 25(g), "Any" was changed to "The supervisory agent of a" for accuracy; in Section 26(a), the last sentence was deleted and "in the form and manner prescribed by the department" was added to Subpara. (C) for conciseness; Sections 14(a), 15(a) and (d), 18, 23(4) and 32(b)(29) were redrafted for clarity and conciseness; in Section 39(c), the first sentence was bracketed as obsolete and "commission" was changed to "council"; in Section 40, "Commission" was changed to "Council" for accuracy; and Sections 67 and 68 were renumbered as Sections 73 and 74 and new Sections 67 to 72, inclusive, were added to conform with the change being made in Section 40.

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Labor Dept.	GF - Cost	None	314,093
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	None	31,110
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Various - See Below	See Below	See Below
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Department of Transportation	TF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE ² - See Below	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill, which creates new programs and policies affecting workforce training, secondary and postsecondary education, college admissions, and public transportation, results in the following fiscal

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

² State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

impacts:

Sections 1 and 57-66 eliminate the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) and replace it with an Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS). This does not result in any fiscal impact as it is anticipated that the current resources of the OWC will be repurposed to be utilized by the OWS.

Section 2 establishes a new CareerConneCT account in the General Fund to fund workforce training programs. The Governor's proposed bond bill (GB 887) includes \$20 million of new General Obligation bond authorizations in each of FY 22 and FY 23 for the CareerConneCT program. The impact of the proposed change in authorization in GB 887 will be discussed in the relevant bill's fiscal note, if applicable.

Section 8 establishes new reporting requirements for businesses subject to the state's unemployment insurance (UI) law. This results in a cost to the Department of Labor of \$345,203 in FY 23 (including a one-time cost of \$235,000 for a third-party vendor to execute necessary technical upgrades to the UI administration system), \$255,402 in FY 24, and \$481,947 in FY 25. These costs include salary and fringe benefits for various full- and part-time/durational positions to manage/implement the project, as well as associated overhead costs (computers, office supplies, etc.).

Section 11 results in a cost and state mandate to local and regional boards of education associated with expanding the content required in student success plans. Expanding student success plans will result in additional staff time and resources. The cost to the district will vary by the district size and the scope of the various plans.

Section 15 requires boards of education to adopt a "challenging curriculum policy" by FY 23, which may result in more high school students taking college credit-earning courses. This provision could have a potential, positive impact on enrollment in the Board of Regents' dual enrollment and similar programs. Some of these programs are revenue neutral while others are net losses. Therefore, the potential

fiscal impact of this provision to the Board of Regents depends on which programs may experience increased enrollment.

Section 15 also results in a cost and state mandate to local and regional boards of education associated with creating a challenging curriculum policy. Under this section, each local and regional board of education must create an academic plan that promotes a challenging curriculum based on a student's assessments. Developing an academic plan will result in additional costs for local and regional school districts associated with additional staff time, administrative time, and resources necessary to implement the plan within the district. The cost to each district will vary based on the size of the district and existing academic plans that are currently in place.

Sections 16 - 18 make the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) mandatory for high school graduation beginning in 2024 (FY 24), with certain exceptions. To the extent this results in higher FAFSA completion rates it is possible that increased postsecondary enrollment may occur, which is a potential revenue gain to the Board of Regents in FY 25 and beyond.

Sections 16 - 18 also result in a minimal cost and state mandate to local and regional boards of education associated with requiring FAFSA completion as a high school graduation requirement, with certain exceptions. This could result in additional staff time and materials to make sure all students complete the FAFSA before graduation. Additionally, the bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to create a form to implement the FAFSA completion graduation requirement. This will result in a minimal cost to SDE to create and distribute the form.

Section 20 increases the adult education program credit requirements for graduation and adds a FAFSA completion requirement for program participants who enroll on and after August 1, 2023. Raising the credit requirements for graduation could keep students in the program longer, which is likely to result in additional costs to local adult education; however, it will not increase state costs as

the Adult Education grant is capped.³

Section 25 directs the Board of Regents to establish, by April 2022, the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program to bachelor's degree programs for in-state high school seniors who meet academic thresholds. The program is required for the four Connecticut state universities while private and other institutions (e.g., UConn) may opt in. As a condition of participation, institutions admitting students through the program cannot charge application fees. This results in a revenue loss to the Board of Regents universities, which otherwise charges a waivable application fee currently set at \$50. In FY 19 and FY 20, total undergraduate application fee revenues for the four universities ranged from approximately \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million. The extent of the revenue loss depends on the number of student applicants to the program.

This program may also have tuition and fee revenue impacts to the Board of Regents associated with: (1) potential lower enrollment at the community colleges, to the extent that students who would have otherwise attended instead choose (because of the program) to enroll at four-year institutions; and (2) potential higher enrollment at the Connecticut state universities for the same reason, as well as the increased publicity the program will generate, and to the extent that students choose participating universities over non-participating private institutions.

Running the program is not anticipated to result in a substantial cost to the Board of Regents. The bill provides that private institutions choosing to participate can be charged a fee of up to \$25,000 or, if lower, the cost of adding the institution to the program, which is expected to be sufficient.

Section 21 raises the high school dropout age to 18. This results in a cost and state mandate to local and regional school districts as more students will be in school and potentially have to be offered additional

³ Currently, the Adult Education grant is capped at \$20.4 million.

programming in order to graduate.

Section 27 requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish the CTpass program by January 1, 2022, to allow individuals in an approved class for an eligible organization to use certain public transit services without cost or at a reduced cost. Under this section, DOT may enter into negotiated agreements with eligible organizations, which shall include terms and conditions outlining (1) the amount of compensation or reimbursement deemed necessary by DOT to ensure that transit expenditures do not increase as a result and (2) that the agreements cover any DOT administrative costs incurred in operating the program. This section limits the length of contracts, in part, to ensure that reimbursement rates are sufficient to prevent any DOT expenditure growth. To the extent that these agreements are structured to prevent additional DOT transit or administrative costs, as required in the bill, this section is not expected to result in a cost to DOT.

Section 28 expands, beginning in FY 23, Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) loan eligibility to enrollment in a high-value certificate program that is noncredit and sub-baccalaureate. To the extent that this provision results in an enrollment increase for these programs, the Board of Regents may experience a potential increase in tuition and fee revenue. In FY 19, 3,670 people received a noncredit, sub-baccalaureate certificate from the Board of Regents (not specific to "high-value" programs).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. The cost impacts to the DOL are limited to FY 25 and earlier, as described above.

OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 881

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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Allows computer science to count in part toward the STEM portion of the high school graduation requirements

§ 13 — STUDENT PLACEMENT IN ACCELERATED COURSES

Places limitations on student placement in academic courses or programs based predominantly upon academic performance

§ 14 — EARLY COLLEGE PILOT PROGRAM

Requires UConn to pilot prerequisite-free Early College Experience Courses in high schools

§ 15 — CHALLENGING CURRICULUM POLICY

By July 1, 2022, requires boards of education to adopt a challenging curriculum policy for high-achieving students in grades 8, 9, and 11

§§ 16-18 — FAFSA COMPLETION REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Beginning with the graduating class of 2024, institutes a FAFSA completion high school graduation requirement, requires SDE to create the forms to implement it, and allows students to use school time to get assistance with the application

§ 19 — RECORDS PROTECTION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Prohibits the sharing of student financial aid applications with federal immigration authorities

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Increases adult education program credit requirements for graduation and adds a FAFSA completion requirement for program participant who enroll on and after August 1, 2023

§§ 21 & 22 — HIGH SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL AND HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST AGE

Raises the high school dropout age and the age at which a student may take a high school equivalency test

§ 23 — AGENCY STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Requires the education commissioner to make recommendations to other state agencies and legislative committees about policies to make higher education more affordable

§ 24 — WEIGHTED GRADING POLICY

Requires boards of education to update their weighted grading policy to address additional courses and programs and the effect of weighted grades on GPA and class rank

§ 25 — AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

Establishes an automatic admissions program for the Connecticut State Universities bachelor's degree programs and potentially other in-state institutions

§ 26 — CALCULATING AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Requires board of education to calculate students' GPA and class rank percentile using a standardized method to determine automatic admissions program eligibility

§ 27 — CTPASS PROGRAM

Establishes the Ctpass program by January 1, 2022, to allow certain individuals in an approved class to use certain public transit services for free or at low cost

§§ 28 & 29 — CHESLA LOAN AND AWARD ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Allows certain students or their parents to take out student loans and receive certain financial aid with CHESLA to enroll in certificate programs and requires CHESLA to establish an account to fund and operate certain loans

§ 30 — CREDENTIALS AND SKILLS REPORT

Requires the chief workforce officer to submit a biennial report on certain credentials and skills, starting by September 1, 2022

§ 31 — WORKFORCE TRAINING AND CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Requires the chief workforce officer, correction and labor commissioners, and OPM undersecretary for criminal justice, to report their recommendations for improving workforce training and credential attainment for incarcerated individuals

§ 32 — FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT EXEMPTIONS

Exempts specified student and employee records from disclosure under FOIA

§§ 33-56 & 67-72 — GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Renames the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission the Governor's Workforce Council

§§ 73 & 74 — REPEALERS

Repeals certain laws on certificate programs

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY

This bill creates new programs and policies affecting workforce training, secondary and postsecondary education, college admissions, and public transportation as part of a statewide workforce strategy.

Among other things, the bill creates a new Office of Workforce Strategy to develop a statewide workforce strategy and coordinate the

(1) funding of workforce training programs and (2) measurement and evaluation of education and workforce development program outcomes. It also tasks the Office of Higher Education (OHE) with creating a database of credentials offered in Connecticut to promote degrees, certificates, certifications, government licenses, apprenticeships, and job training programs. The bill also adjusts various reporting requirements by higher education institutions, public school districts, and employers to inform the statewide workforce strategy.

Additionally, the bill adjusts current secondary education policies to increase students' access to more challenging course placement, encourage them to complete their high school education, and explore available federal funding options for higher education.

The bill also creates the following new programs: (1) an automatic admissions program to admit high-achieving high school students to the four Connecticut State Universities; (2) a pilot program to allow high school students to take early college courses without prerequisites; and (3) a bulk pass, reduced-rate public transportation program for riders affiliated with certain education and employment training programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, unless otherwise noted below.

§§ 1 & 57-66 — OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Eliminates OWC and replaces it with a new OWS, headed by a chief workforce officer; generally transfers to the chief workforce officer the workforce development-related functions and duties currently assigned to the labor commissioner and OWC; and establishes additional duties and reporting requirements

The bill eliminates the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) within the Department of Labor (DOL) and replaces it with a new Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS). The bill places OWS within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for administrative purposes only.

Under the bill, OWS is headed by a chief workforce officer appointed by the governor with confirmation by both the House and Senate. The governor must appoint someone (1) knowledgeable about public sector workforce training programs and (2) with the training and experience

to perform the duties described below. The chief workforce officer reports directly to the governor. The bill transfers to the chief workforce officer the workforce development-related functions and duties that are currently assigned to the labor commissioner and OWC, including those described below.

It also makes conforming changes (§§ 57-66).

Chief Workforce Officer's Functions and Duties

Lead Official and Principal Advisor on Workforce Policy. Under current law, DOL serves as the lead state agency for developing employment and training strategies and initiatives needed to support Connecticut's position in the knowledge economy. The DOL commissioner, with OWC's assistance, serves as the governor's principal workforce development policy advisor and the liaison with local, state, and federal workforce development agencies. He coordinates (1) the state's implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) (see BACKGROUND) and (2) state agencies' workforce development activities.

The bill generally transfers these functions and duties to the chief workforce officer, designating him or her as the (1) lead state official for developing employment and training strategies and initiatives and (2) governor's principal advisor for workforce development policy, strategy, and coordination. The bill requires the chief workforce officer to coordinate the state plan, budget, and implementation of WIOA and issue guidance to this effect. He or she must do so on behalf of the governor and Governor's Workforce Council (i.e., currently, also known as the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC); see § 33-56 below), and in consultation with the DOL commissioner, who must offer any resources he can make available for this purpose.

Under the bill, the chief workforce officer must additionally serve as the liaison with the Governor's Workforce Council and regional workforce development entities.

Workforce Cabinet. The bill requires the chief workforce officer to

chair a Workforce Cabinet comprising the state agencies involved in employment and training. (Existing law requires the governor to designate these agencies and requires their department heads to annually report specified information on the programs offered.) The bill requires the Workforce Cabinet to meet at the direction of the governor or chief workforce officer.

Governor's Workforce Council. OWS must (1) provide staff support, and any other resources the chief workforce officer can make available, to the Governor's Workforce Council and (2) coordinate all necessary support that the council may need and that other state agencies make available.

State Workforce Strategy. The bill requires the chief workforce officer to develop a state workforce strategy and update it as necessary. The strategy must be developed in consultation with the Governor's Workforce Council and the Workforce Cabinet and approved by the governor.

State and WIOA-Funded Programs. Under the bill, the chief workforce officer must coordinate and align (1) each workforce development activity funded by the state through WIOA funds and (2) any state grant programs administered by, or in collaboration with, a state agency to further the goals and outcomes of the state workforce strategy and the Governor's Workforce Council's workforce development plan.

Public, Legislative, and Local Official Involvement. The bill transfers to the chief workforce officer the requirement to establish systems to ensure the maximum involvement of the public, legislature, and local officials in workforce development policy, strategy, and coordination. In doing so, it eliminates the current requirement that this involvement extend to the state's implementation of WIOA.

Contractual Agreements. The bill transfers to the chief workforce officer the authorization to enter into contractual agreements to carry out OWS's purposes, but it requires him or her to do so in conjunction

with one or more state agencies and with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary's approval.

Agency Guidance. The bill requires the chief workforce officer to (1) issue guidance to state agencies, the Governor's Workforce Council, and regional workforce development boards to further the state workforce strategy and (2) consult with these entities on its implementation. This guidance must (1) comply with state and federal laws, (2) be approved by the OPM secretary, and (3) take effect at least 14 days after OPM approves it.

Other Duties. The chief workforce officer must also:

1. collaborate with the regional workforce development boards to adapt the best practices for workforce development for statewide implementation, if possible;
2. together with state agencies, including DOL, the State Department of Education (SDE), and OPM, coordinate the measurement and evaluation of education and workforce development program outcomes;
3. review the WIOA state plan (which outlines Connecticut's four-year workforce development strategy) for each of the workforce development system's core programs, before the plan is submitted to the governor;
4. market and communicate the state workforce strategy to ensure maximum engagement with students, trainees, job seekers, and businesses, and elevate the state's national workforce profile;
5. identify subject areas, courses, curriculum, content, and programs that may be offered to students in primary and secondary school to improve student outcomes and meet the state's workforce needs (for identifying academic programs for which private sector specialists may donate their teaching services under existing law);

6. identify high-demand industries to be included as career choices in the student success plans that boards of education must, by law, create for each public school student in grades 6 - 12; and
7. in consultation with DOL, coordinate with regional workforce development boards and community action agencies to ensure compliance with state and federal laws in order to expand the service capabilities of programs offered under WIOA and the U.S. DOL's American Job Center system.

Workforce Data

Current law authorizes DOL, with OWC's assistance, to ask any state office, department, board, commission, or agency to provide reports, information, and assistance that is necessary or appropriate for DOL to carry out its duties and requirements. The bill (1) transfers this authorization to the chief workforce officer; (2) expands it by allowing him or her to request data, in addition to reports, information, and assistance, from these agencies and entities; and (3) explicitly allows the officer to make the requests to public colleges and universities. However, the bill requires that any data requests from an agency participating in CP20 WIN be submitted through CP20 WIN according to its established policies and procedures (see BACKGROUND).

Annual Report to the Legislature

Each year, beginning by October 1, 2022, the bill requires the chief workforce officer to submit a report on the states' workforce development to the governor and Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Education, Commerce, and Labor and Public Employees committees. At a minimum, the report must include information on OWS's programs and the number, demographics, and outcomes of people they serve.

The bill also eliminates the current requirement that DOL annually report to the legislature on its two- and five-year forecast of workforce shortages by occupation.

§ 2 — CAREERCONNECT ACCOUNT

Establishes a new CareerConneCT account in the General Fund to fund workforce training programs; requires the chief workforce officer to report to the legislature and governor on these programs and the individuals they served

The bill establishes the “CareerConneCT account” as a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account and requires DECD to use it to fund workforce training programs that OWS recommends. The bill requires the account to contain any moneys the law requires to be deposited in it. (SB 887 of the current session authorizes \$20 million in general obligation bonds in each year of the next biennium for CareerConneCT workforce training programs.)

Under the bill, the chief workforce officer, in coordination with the DOL commissioner and regional workforce development boards, must ensure that participants in any workforce training program funded through the CareerConneCT account also enroll in any federally funded workforce development program.

Annually, beginning by October 1, 2022, and ending October 1, 2024, the chief workforce officer must report to the governor and Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Education, Commerce, Labor and Public Employees committees on the workforce training programs funded through this account. The report must, at a minimum, provide information on the number, demographics, and outcomes of the individuals served by these programs.

§§ 3 & 4 — CREDENTIALS DATABASE

Requires OHE to create a database of the credentials offered in Connecticut; beginning by July 1, 2024, requires specified institutions and training providers to submit information about the credentials they offer to be included in the database; requires OWS to establish standards to designate certain credentials as “credentials of value”

Credentials Database

By January 1, 2023, OHE’s executive director, in consultation with the advisory council described below, must create a database of the credentials offered in Connecticut. Under the bill, a “credential” is a documented award issued by an authorized body. It includes the following:

1. degrees or certificates awarded by colleges and universities,

private occupational schools, or State Board of Education (SBE)-approved alternate route to certification (ARC) program providers;

2. certifications awarded through an examination process designed to demonstrate that an individual has the knowledge, skill, and ability to perform a specific job;
3. government licenses that allow someone to practice a specific occupation based on predetermined qualifications; and
4. documented completion of an apprenticeship or job training program.

The database must explain the skills and competencies earned through a credential in uniform terms and plain language. In creating the database, the executive director must use the (1) minimum data policy established by the New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) High Value Credentials for New England initiative and (2) uniform terms, descriptions, and standards for comparing and linking credentials in Credential Engine's Credential Transparency Description Language-Achievement Standards Network (see BACKGROUND).

The database must, at a minimum, include the following data for each credential:

1. name and type of credential being offered and its credential status type (i.e., active, deprecated, probationary, or superseded);
2. entity that owns or offers the credential;
3. a short description of the credential and the language in which it is offered;
4. a website that provides related information;
5. estimated cost and duration for completion;
6. the industry related to the credential, which may include its code

under the North American Industry Classification System;

7. the occupation related to the credential (e.g., its North American Industry Classification code or U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics standard occupational classification system code); and
8. a listing of online or physical locations where it is offered.

Advisory Council

The bill establishes a council to advise the OHE executive director on the database's implementation. The advisory council must include the state's chief data officer and representatives from OWS, OHE, OPM, DOL, SDE, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, UConn, and independent higher education institutions. The chief workforce officer, chief data officer, and OHE executive director, or their designees, must cochair the council, appoint its members, and schedule meetings.

Requirement to Submit Credential Information

Annually, beginning by July 1, 2024, the bill requires specified institutions and training providers to submit information about the credentials they offer to be included in the database. Specifically, this requirement applies to each higher education institution, private occupational school, SBE-approved ARC program provider, and training program provider listed on DOL's Eligible Training Provider List, excluding any state agencies or departments.

Each of these entities must submit the information in the form and manner the OHE executive director prescribes, including the data described above. Higher education institutions, however, may omit the industry code data for any credentials for which it is not applicable.

The bill also authorizes DOL, in consultation with the advisory council, to require any pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program sponsor to submit information about its program to OHE for inclusion in the database.

Credentials of Value

The bill requires OWS to establish standards to designate certain credentials as “credentials of value.” These standards may include (1) meeting the workforce needs of Connecticut’s employers, (2) enrollment and completion rates, (3) net cost, (4) whether the credential transfers to or stacks onto another credential of value, (5) duration until completion, and (6) types of employment opportunities and earnings available upon completion.

OWS must compile and annually update its list of credentials of value and include it in the database.

§§ 5 & 6 — HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM APPROVALS

Allows eligible higher education institutions to apply to OWS for additional program approval exemptions beyond those allowed under current law; terminates reporting requirements for BOR and BOT on new programs and program changes they approve for their respective institutions

Current law exempts qualifying independent colleges and universities from OHE’s approval process for up to 12 new higher education programs per academic year and any modifications to their existing programs. Institutions qualify for this exemption if they:

1. are eligible to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan program;
2. have a financial responsibility score of at least 1.5, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education (this score reflects the overall relative financial health of institutions); and
3. have been located in Connecticut and accredited as a degree-granting institution in good standing for at least 10 years by a federally recognized regional accrediting association.

The bill allows these eligible institutions to apply to OWS for additional exemptions beyond the 12 per academic year allowed under current law. OWS may waive the program approval requirement for any new program if it determines that the program aligns with and furthers the goals of the state workforce strategy approved by the governor.

The bill terminates, on June 30, 2024, the requirement that these exempt institutions annually file with OHE a list and description of any new programs introduced, and any existing programs discontinued, in the preceding academic year. As under existing law, the institutions must continue to annually file their (1) program approval process and all actions their respective governing boards took concerning new program approvals, and (2) financial responsibility composite score.

The bill also terminates, as of June 30, 2024, the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and UConn Board of Trustees (BOT) reports to OHE on the new programs and program changes they approved. (In doing so, however, it retains an existing requirement that BOR notify OHE of new and modified programs.) By law, BOR reviews and approves recommendations to establish new academic programs for the universities within the Connecticut State University System, the community colleges, and Charter Oak State College, and BOT does so for UConn.

§ 7 — PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOL AND ARC PROGRAM STUDENT DATA

Requires each private occupational school and ARC program provider to submit specified data to OHE on each of their enrolled students; prohibits OHE from releasing to the public any of this identifiable student information

By January 1, 2023, the bill requires each private occupational school and SBE-approved ARC program provider to submit to OHE specified data on each of their enrolled students. The data must include course enrollment; course and credential completion; fees and tuition charged; federal student loans received; federal student loan balances; and state-assigned student identifiers, if applicable. (By law, SDE assigns a unique student identifier to each student to track his or her performance in the public school information system.) The schools and providers must submit this data in the form and manner OHE prescribes.

The bill prohibits OHE from releasing to the public any identifiable student information provided by these schools and providers. OHE must establish policies to protect this information as if it were protected student data subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

of 1974.

§ 8 — QUARTERLY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYERS

Requires employers subject to the state's unemployment law to report certain data about each employee in their quarterly wage reports to DOL; requires personally identifiable employee data to be kept confidential, but allows nonidentifiable data to be shared for specified purposes

Expanded Reporting Requirement

The bill requires employers subject to the state's unemployment law to report specified data about each employee in their quarterly wage reports to DOL. Specifically, employers must report the following data for each employee:

1. gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, disability status, and highest education completed;
2. home address and address of primary work site;
3. occupational code under the BLS standard occupational classification system;
4. hours and days worked and salary or hourly wage;
5. employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable, employment end date.

The DOL commission may issue guidance defining each of these data fields. The bill phases in these reporting requirements, based on the employer's number of employees, as follows:

1. beginning with the third quarter of 2024 for employers with 100 or more employees;
2. beginning with the third quarter of 2025 for employers with 99 or fewer employees, except as provided below; and
3. beginning in the third quarter of 2027 for employers with 49 or fewer employees that do not have an electronic payroll system.

The bill states that these provisions may not be construed to require employees to provide information on their gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, or veteran or disability status, if these disclosures are not otherwise required by law.

Electronic Report Submissions and Waivers

The bill allows employers to request a waiver from the electronic reporting requirement for the employee data described above, just as existing law allows them to do for electronic wage reports and reimbursements. As under existing law, employers, or their agents, may submit a written request for a waiver on a DOL-prescribed form at least 30 days before the report is due. The DOL commissioner must grant the request if, based on the information the employer or agent submits, he finds that the requirement would cause an undue hardship. The commissioner must promptly notify the employer or agent of his decision, which cannot be further reviewed or appealed. A waiver is good for one year.

The bill also makes a minor change to the electronic reporting requirement for the quarterly wage reports.

Confidentiality of Employee Data

The bill prohibits the DOL commissioner from releasing to the public any identifiable employee information provided by employers under the bill's reporting requirement. But it allows him or the department to share nonidentifiable information (1) with another state agency, state or territory, or the federal government, or (2) to support a CP20 WIN data request, submitted according to CP20 WIN's policies and procedures, for program administration, audit, evaluation, or research purposes.

§ 9 — DISCLOSURE OF TAX RETURN INFORMATION FOR CP20 WIN DATA REQUESTS

Authorizes DRS to release tax return information for evaluation or research purposes under specified conditions

The bill authorizes the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) commissioner, to the extent allowed by federal law, to disclose tax return information for evaluation or research purposes to (1) another

state agency or (2) support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN, in accordance with CP20 WIN's policies and procedures.

By law, "return information" includes:

1. a taxpayer's identity;
2. the nature, source, or amount of the taxpayer's income, payments, receipts, deductions, exemptions, credits, assets, liabilities, net worth, tax liability, tax collected or withheld, tax under- or over-reportings, or tax payments; and
3. any other data received, recorded, prepared, or collected by or furnished to the DRS commissioner regarding (a) a return or (b) a determination of liability for a tax, penalty, interest, fine, forfeiture, or other imposition or offense (CGS § 12-15(h)(2)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

§ 10 — SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Creates a reporting requirement for boards of education with schools or districts that decline to implement the Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch Program

The bill creates a new reporting requirement for certain boards of education that participate in the National School Lunch Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An aspect of this program, known as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), generally allows a school or an entire district to serve free breakfast and lunch to all students without collecting household applications if at least 40% of their enrolled students participate in another means-tested program such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Eligible Connecticut schools and districts that wish to participate must submit required documentation to the SDE.

Under the bill, any board of education that has at least one school in its district that qualifies for the maximum federal reimbursement for all school meals served under the CEP and chooses not to implement the

CEP must report to SDE by December 1, 2021, and annually thereafter if applicable, about the reasons why. The report must include, at a minimum, (1) specific impediments to implementing the CEP; (2) actions required to remove these impediments; and (3) a plan for successful CEP implementation for the following year, if possible, or within the next two school years.

§ 11 — STUDENT SUCCESS PLANS

Creates new content and sharing requirements for grades 6-12 student success plans

The bill requires each local and regional board of education, beginning in the 2021-22 school year, to collaborate with each student and his or her parent or guardian when creating the student's success plan beginning in grade six. By law, a student success plan must (1) include a student's career and academic choices in grades six to 12 and (2) provide evidence of career exploration in each grade. The bill removes the requirement that the plans contain evidence of manufacturing career exploration, replacing it with exploration of industries that the OWS chief workforce officer identifies as high-demand.

Beginning July 1, 2022, the bill requires student success plans to include an academic plan that complies with the board of education's challenging curriculum policy (see § 15), as long as the plan does not conflict with the student's career choices that he or she determined in conjunction with a parent or guardian.

Beginning July 1, 2024, the bill requires each board of education to maintain each student success plan in an electronic database and submit them to SDE. Under the bill, the education commissioner may grant a one-year compliance extension for this requirement to any board upon request.

Additionally, the bill requires SDE to share a student success plan with a student's academic or career counselor from a higher education institution where the student is enrolled. The bill specifies that written consent is needed prior to sharing the plan, either from the student or a

parent or guardian if the student is a minor.

§ 12 — COMPUTER SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL STEM CREDITS

Allows computer science to count in part toward the STEM portion of the high school graduation requirements

The bill allows the high school graduation requirements, which apply to current grade 10 students and subsequent graduating classes, to include computer science as part of the nine-credit STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) course requirement.

§ 13 — STUDENT PLACEMENT IN ACCELERATED COURSES

Places limitations on student placement in academic courses or programs based predominantly upon academic performance

Subject to the provisions below, the bill prohibits any board of education from restricting or denying a student access to any honors, advanced, or accelerated courses or programs based either solely or predominantly on previous academic performance. This prohibition extends to placement in career and technical education, work-based learning, service learning, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college, advanced placement (AP), or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses or programs.

Under the bill, a board may take the following actions relating to student placement:

1. establish prerequisites for these courses or programs, as long as they align with any prerequisites established by any independent organization that develops, regulates, oversees, or sponsors them;
2. seek to minimize prerequisites and ensure that they are evidence-based indicators of student performance; and
3. use academic performance or other measures to determine students' enrollment eligibility if a course or program is oversubscribed.

Additionally, the bill requires boards to seek to improve access to and

diversity in these courses and programs, promote a challenging curriculum for all students, and encourage all students to pursue high-quality degree and non-degree postsecondary education. It also specifies that these student placement requirements do not require boards to offer new programs or courses or new sections of courses in addition to their current offerings.

§ 14 — EARLY COLLEGE PILOT PROGRAM

Requires UConn to pilot prerequisite-free Early College Experience Courses in high schools

The bill requires UConn to conduct a three-year pilot program over the 2022-23 through the 2024-25 school years that allows students at five different public high schools to take four different UConn Early College Experience Courses without prerequisites. Under the bill, UConn chooses the participating high schools with the approval of the governing board of education. The schools must be geographically dispersed across the state, and at least one of the five schools must be part of an alliance district (see BACKGROUND).

The bill requires UConn to report to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement and the Education committees by October 1, 2025, about how student performance in the prerequisite-free courses compared with student performance in the courses that required them. The comparison must include information on course enrollment, exam performance, final grades, and matriculation rate at UConn by these students.

§ 15 — CHALLENGING CURRICULUM POLICY

By July 1, 2022, requires boards of education to adopt a challenging curriculum policy for high-achieving students in grades 8, 9, and 11

By July 1, 2022, the bill requires each local and regional board of education to adopt a challenging curriculum policy that requires boards to create an academic plan for certain high-achieving students or enroll these students in the next most rigorous course level offered by a high school in the district. It allows a minor student's parents or guardians, a student 18-years-old or older, or a legally emancipated minor to decline to implement the student's academic plan or enroll the student in a

rigorous course or program. Additionally, the bill specifies that it does not require boards of education to offer new programs or courses in addition to what they currently offer.

A board of education's challenging curriculum policy must use one of the following criteria to identify eligible students: (1) student performance on a mastery exam, excluding any alternate assessments for certain special education students (see BACKGROUND), or (2) student fulfillment of other board criteria. The academic plan or advanced course or program enrollment must align with the following:

1. the courses or programs offered at the student's high school;
2. the student's success plan (see § 11);
3. high school graduation requirements established by state law;
and
4. the program's or school's objectives and requirements, including technical education and career schools and regional agricultural science and technology education centers.

The bill also allows SDE to require boards of education to report information about student performance and enrollment under the challenging curriculum policy adopted by the board.

Academic Plan

The bill requires each local and regional board of education to create an academic plan for students who meet or exceed the level three standard for English language arts, math, or science components of the mastery exam, or meet or exceed other board-established criteria. For these students, the district's academic plan must either result in:

1. grade 8 or 9 students completing one or more dual credit, dual enrollment, early college, AP, or IB courses by the end of grade 11 or
2. grade 11 students completing as many courses as possible that

earn college credit, including dual credit, dual enrollment, early college, AP, or IB courses by the end of grade 12.

Rigorous Course Enrollment

Under the bill, each board of education must enroll an 8th or 11th grade student in the next most rigorous course or program level offered by the student's high school for any subject area in which the student meets or exceeds (1) the state level three standard for the English language arts, math, or science components of the mastery exam or (2) any other board-established criteria. After a student successfully completes an advanced course under this enrollment requirement, the bill requires the student to be enrolled in a course at the same level or the next most rigorous level in the same subject area, with the objective that the student will eventually be enrolled in a dual credit, early college, AP, or IB course or program.

§§ 16-18 — FAFSA COMPLETION REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Beginning with the graduating class of 2024, institutes a FAFSA completion high school graduation requirement, requires SDE to create the forms to implement it, and allows students to use school time to get assistance with the application

Beginning with the graduating class of 2024 (i.e., current grade 9 students), the bill prohibits local or regional boards of education from allowing any student to graduate high school or granting a diploma to any student who has not (1) completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or (2) completed and signed a waiver declining to file the application. SDE must create the waiver form, which may be signed by a minor student's parent or guardian, a student 18-years-old or older, or a legally emancipated minor. The bill prohibits the form from requiring its signatory to state any reasons for declining to complete the FAFSA.

Under the bill, boards of education must exempt students from the FAFSA requirement by April 15 every school year if they (1) are unable to complete FAFSA or signed a waiver; (2) in the board's determination, have or will complete an occupational credential; (3) have enlisted in the U.S. armed forces; or (4) have placed into a registered apprenticeship

program.

The bill requires SDE to create and distribute to boards of education, by July 1, 2022, any forms, including waiver forms, needed to implement the FAFSA graduation requirement. The department must also annually post on its website the rate of FAFSA completion for each year's graduating class, beginning by July 1, 2024.

Additionally, the bill requires boards of education to allow each grade 12 student to take up to three hours of school time to attend an event or receive assistance for FAFSA completion or for completion of an institutional aid application for undocumented students. The bill prohibits (1) this time from being considered an absence, either excused or unexcused, and (2) boards from requiring a student to attend this type of event or receive assistance.

§ 19 — RECORDS PROTECTION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Prohibits the sharing of student financial aid applications with federal immigration authorities

The bill prohibits several individuals and entities from sharing, disclosing, or otherwise making accessible to any federal immigration authority (1) records or information obtained from an institutional aid application for undocumented students or (2) signed FAFSA completion waivers by high school students. These individuals and entities are officers, employees, or agents of a department, board, commission, public higher education institution, or any other state agency; or any officer, employee, or agent of a local or regional board of education.

§ 20 — ADULT EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Increases adult education program credit requirements for graduation and adds a FAFSA completion requirement for program participant who enroll on and after August 1, 2023

The bill increases the number of credits needed to graduate from an adult education program from 20 to 25. Table 1 describes the new requirements.

Table 1: Heightened Graduation Requirements for Adult Education

Current Requirements (CGS § 10-69)	New Requirements under the Bill
English: at least four credits	Humanities: nine credits, including civics
Math: at least three credits	STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math): at least nine credits, which may include computer science
Social studies: at least three credits, including one in American history and at least a half credit in civics and American government	(see Humanities above)
Science: at least two credits	(see STEM above)
Arts or vocational education: at least one credit	

Additionally, the bill prohibits any school district providing an adult education program from granting a diploma to a program participant who enrolls on and after August 1, 2023, and has not completed a FAFSA or a FAFSA completion waiver created by SDE (see § 17). Under the bill, a district must exempt any program participant who is unable to complete a FAFSA or submitted a signed waiver as determined by the district.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 21 & 22 — HIGH SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL AND HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST AGE

Raises the high school dropout age and the age at which a student may take a high school equivalency test

The bill raises the permissible high school dropout age from 17 to 18, beginning with the 2023-24 school year, eliminating the need for parent or guardian permission. It also specifies that an emancipated minor may withdraw from school. (A student may become legally emancipated from his or her parents at age 16.) Additionally, the bill requires the school district to provide the withdrawing student, rather than a parent

or guardian, with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community.

The bill correspondingly raises the minimum age, from age 16 to 17, at which a student can get permission from the education commissioner to take the GED or another SDE-approved high school equivalency test in order to earn a state high school diploma. However, a legally emancipated minor may also take the test with the commissioner's permission beginning at age 16.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 23 — AGENCY STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Requires the education commissioner to make recommendations to other state agencies and legislative committees about policies to make higher education more affordable

The bill requires the education commissioner, in consultation with OWS and with SBE approval, to make recommendations by January 1, 2022, to SBE, OPM, and the Education and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees about the following topics:

1. necessary strategies and supports for increasing the number of alliance district and adult education students who complete the FAFSA;
2. educating students and families about the net cost of college, the use of Pell grants to increase college affordability, and the varying income potential of different college and certificate programs;
3. strategies for removing barriers and simplifying access to high-quality postsecondary education and training options, including nondegree programs;
4. feasibility of establishing an early high school graduation program that grants scholarships for students who graduate high school in three years or less to attend an undergraduate, in-person program at a non-profit Connecticut higher education institution; and

5. feasibility of developing a standardized exit survey for all grade 12 students.

Under the bill, the education commissioner must consult with parents, teachers, and school administration before making any of the above recommendations. The commissioner may establish a task force to help create the recommendations.

§ 24 — WEIGHTED GRADING POLICY

Requires boards of education to update their weighted grading policy to address additional courses and programs and the effect of weighted grades on GPA and class rank

The bill requires boards of education to update the written weighted grading policy for honors and advanced placement classes that they must have under current law. Under the bill, the board must update the policy to address whether the following courses or programs are also given added weight for GPA and class rank calculation: IB, Cambridge International, service learning, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college, or career and technical class. Additionally, the board must add GPA calculation to its written policy, including whether a GPA is weighted or unweighted.

Additionally, the bill requires each local and regional board of education, before establishing this updated policy, to consider the impact of a weighted grading policy on the GPA and class rank of students who complete career and technical education coursework.

§ 25 — AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

Establishes an automatic admissions program for the Connecticut State Universities bachelor's degree programs and potentially other in-state institutions

Program Establishment and Eligibility Criteria

The bill requires the BOR to establish the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program by April 1, 2022. When establishing the program and adopting the rules, procedures, and forms to implement it, BOR must consult with the four Connecticut State Universities and any other in-state higher education institution that enters into a memorandum of understanding with BOR to participate in the program.

Under the bill, the program must require participating institutions to admit an applicant as a full-time, first-year student to a Connecticut in-person bachelor's degree program if he or she meets the following requirements:

1. meets or exceeds the academic threshold (see "Academic Threshold," below);
2. would qualify as an in-state student (see BACKGROUND);
3. is enrolled in his or her last school year before graduation in a Connecticut public or private high school; and
4. earns a high school diploma, if required by a participating institution.

The bill specifies that (1) admission to an institution under the program does not guarantee admission to any specific bachelor's degree program and (2) no participating institution may consider admission through the program when determining the student's need- or merit-based financial aid.

Under the bill, a participating institution may conduct a comprehensive review of an applicant who applies through the program. This review may entail requesting additional application materials or result in denying admission. The bill requires participating institutions to minimize the number of students subjected to this review if the student meets the above four requirements.

Program Application Process

The bill requires BOR to create a simple, online form for students to apply to the program's participating institutions. This application must require students to verify that they meet the qualifications, but it may not require an application fee, an essay, or recommendation letters.

Participating Institutions Outside of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS)

The bill allows a nonprofit higher education institution outside of

CSUS to participate in the program if it enters a memorandum of agreement with BOR and meets the following qualifications:

1. has graduated at least 100 students with a bachelor's degree in each of the prior four years;
2. maintains eligibility to participate in federal student financial aid programs;
3. has a financial responsibility score of at least 1.5 for the most recent fiscal year with available data, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education; and
4. is accredited as a degree-granting institution in good standing for at least 10 years by a regional accrediting organization and maintains the accreditation.

Under the bill, each participating institution must accept the online application form (see "Program Application Process," above) and comply with the academic threshold requirements (see "Academic Threshold," below). Additionally, the bill allows BOR to charge a reasonable fee to any participating institution that is not a public institution of higher education in Connecticut; however, it must not exceed BOR's cost for including the institution in the program, or \$25,000, whichever is less.

Academic Threshold

The bill requires BOR to establish (1) a minimum class rank percentile for program applicants to qualify for automatic admission to participating institutions and (2) a standardized GPA calculation method that must be used to determine class rank percentile.

The bill also allows a participating institution to establish an academic threshold for admission to the institution through the program in addition to BOR's minimum class rank percentile. This additional academic threshold must be based on a minimum GPA calculated using BOR's standardized method.

If a CSUS university establishes an academic threshold, then the bill requires the university to admit applicants through the program if the applicant meets or exceeds either the BOR-established minimum class rank percentile or the minimum GPA established by the university. If any other participating institution establishes an academic threshold, it must admit applicants through the program if the applicant meets or exceeds the BOR-established minimum class rank percentile, the minimum GPA established by the institution, or both.

Under the bill, participating institutions' governing boards may not establish policies or procedures that require additional academic qualifications beyond what is in the bill.

Nonpublic High School Participation

The bill allows a Connecticut nonpublic high school's supervisory agent to apply to BOR to participate in the program. BOR must approve it if the school (1) is accredited by a generally recognized organization or is operated by the U.S. Department of Defense or (2) complies with the bill's class rank percentile calculation requirements (see § 26, below).

§ 26 — CALCULATING AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Requires board of education to calculate students' GPA and class rank percentile using a standardized method to determine automatic admissions program eligibility

The bill requires each local and regional board of education, starting by August 1, 2022, to make certain calculations annually to determine which students qualify for the automatic admissions program. Specifically, each board must do the following:

1. calculate a GPA using the BOR-established standardized method for each grade 11 student;
2. determine whether these students' class rank percentile is above or below the BOR-established minimum; and
3. share a student's GPA, and whether the student is above or below the minimum class rank percentile, with the student; his or her parents or guardians if a minor; SDE; and upon the

student's request, a participating institution for purposes of the program.

The bill specifies that it does not require a board of education to (1) publish or provide any student's class ranking, (2) publish the BOR-established GPA calculation on a student's transcript, or (3) publish whether a student is above or below the BOR-established minimum class rank percentile for the automatic admissions program.

The bill requires each board of education, starting by August 1, 2022, to annually notify each student in his or her final year of high school, and their parent or guardian, about whether the student may be admitted to at least one participating institution under the automatic admissions program, based on the academic threshold described above.

§ 27 — CTPASS PROGRAM

Establishes the Ctpass program by January 1, 2022, to allow certain individuals in an approved class to use certain public transit services for free or at low cost

The bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish the Ctpass program by January 1, 2022, to allow certain individuals in an approved class to use certain public transit services without cost or at low cost. These individuals are employees, clients, students, or customers of a training program, alternate route to certification program provider, higher education institution, private occupational school, employer, state or municipal agency, and public nonprofit social service provider. DOT must post information regarding the program on its website in a manner that, in the commissioner's view, will maximize awareness and participation by the greatest number of eligible organizations.

Under the bill, these eligible organizations may submit to the DOT commissioner an application to participate in Ctpass. The commissioner may then negotiate terms and conditions and enter into a contract with the organization. The terms and conditions must include (1) the amount of compensation or reimbursement required from the eligible organization, (2) the definition of approved class specific to the eligible organization, and (3) any limitations on times of use or types of

public transit services available to the approved class. The compensation or reimbursement negotiated in the contract must be in an amount that the commissioner finds necessary or advisable, as long as it ensures that DOT's transit service expenditures do not increase due to administrative costs incurred operating the program.

The bill requires that a contract under the CTpass program be valid upon OPM's approval for a maximum two-year term; however, the first contract with an eligible organization must not exceed 12 months. Before renewing a contract with an eligible operator, the DOT commissioner must consider the following to re-evaluate the required compensation or reimbursement amount: (1) prior pass usage information and (2) any transit services expenditure increases incurred by DOT. The bill allows the commissioner to treat several eligible operators as a single eligible organization for contract purposes under the program.

By January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the bill requires the DOT commissioner to report to the OPM secretary on the financial data and pass usage information for each contract under the CT pass program.

§§ 28 & 29 — CHESLA LOAN AND AWARD ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Allows certain students or their parents to take out student loans and receive certain financial aid with CHESLA to enroll in certificate programs and requires CHESLA to establish an account to fund and operate certain loans

The bill allows (1) students enrolled in a Connecticut "high-value certificate program" or their parents to take out student loans with the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) and (2) these students to receive grants, scholarships, fellowships, or other non-repayable assistance from CHESLA. Under the bill, a "high value certificate program" is a non-credit, subbaccalaureate certificate program offered by a higher education institution or a private occupational school that OWS designates as a "credential of value" (see § 4). A "Connecticut high-value certificate program" is a high-value certificate program offered by a higher education institution or private occupational school in the state.

Additionally, the bill requires CHESLA to establish the Certificate Loan Loss Reserve and Funding account. This separate, non-lapsing account must contain any funds required by law to be deposited in it, including state appropriations or bonds sale proceeds. CHESLA must spend these funds to (1) fund loans that it issues to a borrower to finance Connecticut high-value certificate program enrollment, (2) cover any losses CHESLA incurs from issuing these loans and reasonable and necessary expenses for administering these loans, and (3) cover any initial implementation expenses before the loans' origination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, for the CHESLA account provision and October 1, 2022, for the loan provision.

§ 30 — CREDENTIALS AND SKILLS REPORT

Requires the chief workforce officer to submit a biennial report on certain credentials and skills, starting by September 1, 2022

By September 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter until September 1, 2028, the bill requires the chief workforce officer to submit to the governor and BOR a report on in-demand credentials and skills that lead to quality jobs.

§ 31 — WORKFORCE TRAINING AND CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Requires the chief workforce officer, correction and labor commissioners, and OPM undersecretary for criminal justice, to report their recommendations for improving workforce training and credential attainment for incarcerated individuals

By February 1, 2023, the bill requires the chief workforce officer, together with the correction and labor commissioners and OPM undersecretary for criminal justice, to report on recommendations to improve workforce training and credential attainment for individuals incarcerated by the Department of Correction. They must (1) recommend whether credential attainment should be a factor for early release and (2) identify in-demand credentials and skills that lead to quality jobs and any barriers to equitably accessing those jobs.

They must submit the report to the governor, OPM secretary, and the Judiciary, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Labor, and Commerce committees.

§ 32 — FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT EXEMPTIONS

Exempts specified student and employee records from disclosure under FOIA

The bill exempts the following from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):

1. any information reported to an executive branch agency by a higher education institution, private occupational school, or other training or certificate program providers about applicants or enrolled students, including enrollment, program completion, student loan, or other financial aid information;
2. any employee information provided to DOL by an employer under the bill's expanded quarterly reporting requirement (see § 8);
3. FAFSA records or information, including any waivers completed pursuant to the bill's FAFSA completion requirement for high school students (see § 16);
4. any records pertaining to institutional financial aid for students without legal immigration status;
5. admission applications to higher education institutions held by any department, board, commission, public college or university, state agency, or board of education, including applications made under the bill's Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program (see § 25) and any materials that are not otherwise protected from disclosure under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

§§ 33-56 & 67-72 — GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Renames the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission the Governor's Workforce Council

The bill renames the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) the Governor's Workforce Council, thus aligning the statutes to Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 4. It makes related conforming changes throughout the statutes.

Executive Order No. 4, signed by the governor on October 29, 2019, requires CETC to also be known at the Governor's Workforce Council and, among other things, designates the council as the governor's principal advisor on workforce development issues. It required the council to convene a group of stakeholders and review and report on the state's workforce development system.

§§ 73 & 74 — REPEALERS

Repeals certain laws on certificate programs

The bill repeals the following laws about certificate programs:

1. definitions related to the programs (CGS § 10a-57a);
2. requirements for higher education institutions and private occupational schools to submit, collect, and compile data about certificate programs (CGS § 10a-57b);
3. the requirement that OHE develop and post online a one-page fact sheet for each subbaccalaureate certificate program offered by each higher education institution and private occupational school in the state (CGS § 10a-57c);
4. the requirement that OHE annually review a sample of student data for all for-credit and noncredit subbaccalaureate certificate programs offered by higher education institutions and private occupational schools (CGS § 10a-57e); and
5. the requirement that BOR formulate written definitions for all subbaccalaureate certificates earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis and awarded by Connecticut higher education institutions and private occupational schools (PA 16-44, § 3).

BACKGROUND

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WIOA provides federal funds to states for a range of career services, job training, education, and related services and supports. It authorizes six core programs, including the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth

programs. The law requires each state to submit a state plan that outlines a four-year strategy for the state's workforce development system.

CP20 WIN

CP20 WIN (i.e., the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network) provides a framework and mechanism for securely sharing longitudinal data across participating agencies. It is designed to provide information to education, workforce, and agency staff and leaders to help improve education and workforce outcomes.

Requests for data from CP20 WIN must be for conducting an audit or evaluation of a federally or state-funded education program and benefit a local or state education authority or agency. Requests must also comply with existing state and federal limitations on sharing education and unemployment wage data.

NEBHE's High Value Credentials for New England

NEBHE's High Value Credentials for New England initiative was designed to provide individuals, institutions, policymakers, and employers with the tools to compare and evaluate credential programs and understand the skills and competencies obtained by earning a credential. The initiative includes a cloud-based Credential Registry that houses, organizes, and links credential information. The minimum data policy establishes the fields that make up the credential profiles in the registry.

Credential Engine

Credential Engine is a nonprofit organization that provides web-based services for creating a centralized credential registry. Its Credential Transparency Description Language provides a common set of terms for defining credentials, credentialing organizations, quality assurance bodies, and competencies.

Alliance Districts

Alliance districts are the 30 school districts that have the lowest achievement, as rated by the state's accountability index, plus the three districts that were previously among the lowest 30 when the program started in FY 13 (CGS § 10-262u). For FYs 18-22, they are as follows: Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, Derby, East Hartford, East Haven, East Windsor, Groton, Hamden, Hartford, Killingly, Manchester, Meriden, Middletown, Naugatuck, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Putnam, Stamford, Thompson, Torrington, Vernon, Waterbury, West Haven, Winchester, Windham, Windsor, and Windsor Locks.

Mastery Exams and Alternatives

Mastery exams for eighth grade students annually measure essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. Ninth grade students do not take any mastery exams. Grade 11 students take a mastery exam to measure essential and grade-appropriate skills in science, as well as a nationally recognized college readiness assessment that measures essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing, and mathematics (i.e., the SAT, as approved by SBE (CGS § 10-14n)).

Federal regulations allow students with significant cognitive disabilities to take an alternate assessment with alternate academic achievement standards designed by the state (34 C.F.R. 200.1(d) & 34 C.F.R. 300.160(c)).

In-State Student Classification

By law, with limited exceptions, eligibility for in-state student classification is based on an applicant's domicile, which is his or her "true, fixed and permanent home" and the place where he or she intends to remain and return to when he or she leaves (CGS §§ 10a-28 & 10a-29). One exception allows a person, except for certain nonimmigrant aliens (i.e., people with a visa permitting temporary entrance to the country for a specific purpose), to qualify for in-state tuition if he or she meets the following criteria:

1. resides in Connecticut (i.e., maintains a continuous and permanent physical presence, except for short, temporary absences);
2. attended an in-state educational institution and completed at least two years of high school in Connecticut;
3. graduated from a high school or the equivalent in Connecticut; and
4. is registered as an entering student, or is a student, at UConn, a Connecticut State University, a community-technical college, or Charter Oak State College.

Students without legal immigration status who meet the above criteria must file an affidavit with the institution stating that they have applied to legalize their immigration status or will do so as soon as they are eligible (CGS § 10a-29(9)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 3 (03/22/2021)