



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 285

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 903

Senate, April 6, 2021

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through SEN. KUSHNER of the 24th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO STATUTES CONCERNING
APPRENTICESHIPS AND OTHER LABOR STATUTES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-95h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Not later than November thirtieth each year, the joint standing
4 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
5 relating to education, higher education and employment advancement
6 and labor shall meet with the chairperson of the Technical Education
7 and Career System board and the superintendent of the Technical
8 Education and Career System, the Labor Commissioner and such other
9 persons as they deem appropriate to consider the items submitted
10 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

11 (b) On or before November fifteenth, annually:

12 (1) The Labor Commissioner shall submit the following to the joint
13 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
14 matters relating to education, higher education and employment
15 advancement and labor: (A) Information identifying general economic
16 trends in the state; (B) occupational information regarding the public
17 and private sectors, such as continuous data on occupational
18 movements; and (C) information identifying emerging regional, state
19 and national workforce needs over the next [thirty] ten years.

20 (2) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career System
21 shall submit the following to the joint standing committees of the
22 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
23 higher education and employment advancement and labor: (A)
24 Information ensuring that the curriculum of the Technical Education
25 and Career System is incorporating those workforce skills that will be
26 needed for the next [thirty] ten years, as identified by the Labor
27 Commissioner in subdivision (1) of this subsection, into the technical
28 education and career schools; (B) information regarding the
29 employment status of students who graduate from or complete an
30 approved program of study at the Technical Education and Career
31 System, including, but not limited to: (i) Demographics such as age and
32 gender, (ii) course and program enrollment and completion, (iii)
33 employment status, and (iv) wages prior to enrolling and after
34 graduating; (C) an assessment of the adequacy of the resources available
35 to the Technical Education and Career System as the system develops
36 and refines programs to meet existing and emerging workforce needs;
37 (D) recommendations to the Technical Education and Career System
38 board to carry out the provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive,
39 of this subdivision; (E) information regarding staffing at each technical
40 education and career school for the current academic year; and (F)
41 information regarding the transition process of the Technical Education
42 and Career System as an independent agency, including, but not limited
43 to, the actions taken by the Technical Education and Career System
44 board and the superintendent to create a budget process and maintain
45 programmatic consistency for students enrolled in the technical
46 education and career system. The superintendent shall collaborate with

47 the Labor Commissioner to obtain information as needed to carry out
48 the provisions of this subsection.

49 Sec. 2. Section 12-217g of the general statutes is repealed and the
50 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

51 (a) (1) There shall be allowed a credit for any taxpayer against the tax
52 imposed under this chapter for any income year with respect to each
53 apprenticeship in the manufacturing trades commenced by such
54 taxpayer in such year under a qualified apprenticeship training
55 program as described in this section, certified in accordance with
56 regulations adopted by the Labor Commissioner and registered with the
57 [Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council established] Labor
58 Department under section [31-22n] 31-22r, in an amount equal to six
59 dollars per hour multiplied by the total number of hours worked during
60 the income year by apprentices in the first half of a two-year term of
61 apprenticeship and the first three-quarters of a four-year term of
62 apprenticeship, provided the amount of credit allowed for any income
63 year with respect to each such apprenticeship may not exceed seven
64 thousand five hundred dollars or fifty per cent of actual wages paid in
65 such income year to an apprentice in the first half of a two-year term of
66 apprenticeship or in the first three-quarters of a four-year term of
67 apprenticeship, whichever is less.

68 (2) Effective for income years commencing on and after January 1,
69 2015, for purposes of this subsection, "taxpayer" includes an affected
70 business entity, as defined in section 12-284b. Any affected business
71 entity allowed a credit under this subsection may sell, assign or
72 otherwise transfer such credit, in whole or in part, to one or more
73 taxpayers to offset any state tax due or otherwise payable by such
74 taxpayers under this chapter, or, with respect to income years
75 commencing on or after January 1, 2016, chapter 212 or 227, provided
76 such credit may be sold, assigned or otherwise transferred, in whole or
77 in part, not more than three times.

78 (b) There shall be allowed a credit for any taxpayer against the tax
79 imposed under this chapter for any income year with respect to each

80 apprenticeship in plastics and plastics-related trades commenced by
81 such taxpayer in such year under a qualified apprenticeship training
82 program as described in this section, certified in accordance with
83 regulations adopted by the Labor Commissioner and registered with the
84 [Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council established] Labor
85 Department under section [31-22n] 31-22r, which apprenticeship
86 exceeds the average number of such apprenticeships begun by such
87 taxpayer during the five income years immediately preceding the
88 income year with respect to which such credit is allowed, in an amount
89 equal to four dollars per hour multiplied by the total number of hours
90 worked during the income year by apprentices in the first half of a two-
91 year term of apprenticeship and the first three-quarters of a four-year
92 term of apprenticeship, provided the amount of credit allowed for any
93 income year with respect to each such apprenticeship may not exceed
94 four thousand eight hundred dollars or fifty per cent of actual wages
95 paid in such income year to an apprentice in the first half of a two-year
96 term of apprenticeship or in the first three-quarters of a four-year term
97 of apprenticeship, whichever is less.

98 (c) There shall be allowed a credit for any taxpayer against the tax
99 imposed under this chapter for any income year with respect to wages
100 paid to apprentices in the construction trades by such taxpayer in such
101 year that the apprentice and taxpayer participate in a qualified
102 apprenticeship training program, as described in this section, which (1)
103 is at least four years in duration, (2) is certified in accordance with
104 regulations adopted by the Labor Commissioner, and (3) is registered
105 with the [Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council established] Labor
106 Department under section [31-22n] 31-22r. The tax credit shall be (A) in
107 an amount equal to two dollars per hour multiplied by the total number
108 of hours completed by each apprentice toward completion of such
109 program, and (B) awarded upon completion and notification of
110 completion of such program in the income year in which such
111 completion and notification occur, provided the amount of credit
112 allowed for such income year with respect to each such apprentice may
113 not exceed four thousand dollars or fifty per cent of actual wages paid
114 over the first four income years for such apprenticeship, whichever is

115 less.

116 (d) For purposes of this section, a qualified apprenticeship training
117 program shall require at least four thousand but not more than eight
118 thousand hours of apprenticeship training for certification of such
119 apprenticeship by the [Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council]
120 Labor Department. The amount of credit allowed any taxpayer under
121 this section for any income year may not exceed the amount of tax due
122 from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to such income year.

123 Sec. 3. Section 31-3b of the general statutes is repealed and the
124 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

125 [(a) The Labor Commissioner shall appoint a job training coordinator
126 who shall develop and implement innovative programs which will
127 provide (1) job training for (A) workers who are needed by industries
128 planning to locate in Connecticut or by industries located in this state,
129 (B) unskilled entry level workers, (C) workers in need of retraining due
130 to the obsolescence of their skills and (D) workers who need skill
131 training to qualify for advancement, (2) an incentive for the
132 establishment of apprenticeship programs in selected occupations;
133 provided no program shall be developed for occupations where prior
134 skill or training is not typically a prerequisite to hiring, and (3) work
135 training opportunities and placement of the chronically unemployed
136 under section 31-3d.

137 (b) The Labor Commissioner is authorized to establish an interagency
138 program coordinating committee to coordinate the application of all
139 available resources for the purposes of this section. Said committee shall
140 consist of representatives of various employment and training agencies
141 within the Labor Department and representatives of the Department of
142 Education and the Department of Economic and Community
143 Development.]

144 [(c)] (a) The Labor Commissioner may contract with any public or
145 private agency for educational and job training services.

146 [(d)] (b) The Labor Commissioner may accept and receive funds from
147 any public or private source which become available for the purposes of
148 this section and section 31-3d.

149 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 31-3pp of the general statutes is
150 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
151 *passage*):

152 (e) (1) An eligible small business or eligible small manufacturer may
153 apply to the department for a grant to subsidize on-the-job training for
154 a preapprentice, where "preapprentice" means a person, [who is (A) a
155 current student at a public or private high school, preparatory school or
156 institution of higher education, or (B) not more than eighteen years of
157 age and employed under a written agreement with an apprenticeship
158 program sponsor for a term of training and employment not exceeding
159 two thousand hours or twenty-four months] student or minor (A)
160 employed under a written agreement with an apprenticeship sponsor
161 for a term of training and employment not exceeding two thousand
162 hours or twenty-four months in duration, and (B) registered with the
163 Labor Department. "Preapprentice" does not include a person who was
164 employed in this state by a related person with respect to the eligible
165 small business during the prior twelve months or a person employed on
166 a temporary or seasonal basis by a retailer, as defined in section 42-371.

167 (2) Grants to eligible small businesses or eligible small manufacturers
168 under the Subsidized Training and Employment program shall be in the
169 following amounts: (A) For the first thirty calendar days a preapprentice
170 is employed, one hundred per cent of an amount representing the cost
171 of on-the-job training for such preapprentice, but in no event shall such
172 amount exceed ten dollars per hour; (B) for the thirty-first to ninetieth,
173 inclusive, calendar days, seventy-five per cent of such amount; (C) for
174 the ninety-first to one hundred fiftieth, inclusive, calendar days, fifty per
175 cent of such amount; and (D) for the one hundred fifty-first to one
176 hundred eightieth, inclusive, calendar days, twenty-five per cent of such
177 amount. Grants shall be cancelled as of the date the preapprentice leaves
178 his or her apprenticeship with the eligible small business or eligible

179 small manufacturer.

180 Sec. 5. Section 31-22m of the general statutes is repealed and the
181 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

182 When used in sections 31-22m to 31-22q, inclusive, and 31-22u,
183 "apprentice" means a person who is employed under a written
184 agreement to work at and learn a specific trade and who is registered
185 with the Labor Department; "apprentice agreement" means a written
186 agreement entered into by an apprentice, or on his behalf by his parent
187 or guardian, with an employer, or with an association of employers and
188 an organization of employees acting as a joint apprenticeship
189 committee, which agreement provides for not less than two thousand
190 hours of work experience in approved trade training consistent with
191 recognized requirements established by industry or joint labor-industry
192 practice and for the number of hours of related and supplemental
193 instructions prescribed by the Connecticut State Apprenticeship
194 Council or which agreement meets requirements of the federal
195 government for on-the-job training schedules which are essential, in the
196 opinion of the Labor Commissioner, for the development of manpower
197 in Connecticut industries; "council" means the Connecticut State
198 Apprenticeship Council; and "preapprentice" means a person, student
199 or minor employed under a written agreement with an apprenticeship
200 sponsor for a term of training and employment not exceeding two
201 thousand hours or twenty-four months in duration, and who is
202 registered with the Labor Department.

203 Sec. 6. Section 31-22o of the general statutes is repealed and the
204 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

205 The council may [adopt recommendations for] recommend
206 minimum standards of apprenticeship and for related and
207 supplementary instruction, encourage registration and approval of
208 apprentice agreements and training programs, and issue certificates of
209 completion upon the verification by employers or joint apprenticeship
210 committees of the satisfactory completion of the term of apprenticeship.
211 The council shall [formulate] assist in recommending policies for the

212 effective administration of sections 31-22m to 31-22q, inclusive, as
213 amended by this act, and 31-22u. Such policies by the council shall not
214 invalidate any apprenticeship provision in any collective bargaining
215 agreement between employers and employees. All apprentice programs
216 adopted and registered with the [council] Labor Department under said
217 sections shall be on a voluntary basis and shall be installed for the
218 purpose of developing skilled workers for the service trades and
219 industries of Connecticut.

220 Sec. 7. Section 31-230 of the general statutes is repealed and the
221 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

222 (a) An individual's benefit year shall commence with the beginning
223 of the week with respect to which the individual has filed a valid
224 initiating claim and shall continue through the Saturday of the fifty-first
225 week following the week in which it commenced, provided no benefit
226 year shall end until after the end of the third complete calendar quarter,
227 plus the remainder of any uncompleted calendar week that began in
228 such quarter, following the calendar quarter in which it commenced,
229 and provided further, the benefit year of an individual who has filed a
230 combined wage claim, as described in subsection (b) of section 31-255,
231 shall be the benefit year prescribed by the law of the paying state. In no
232 event shall a benefit year be established before the termination of an
233 existing benefit year previously established under the provisions of this
234 chapter. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the base
235 period of a benefit year shall be the first four of the five most recently
236 completed calendar quarters prior to such benefit year, provided such
237 quarters were not previously used to establish a prior valid benefit year
238 and provided further, the base period with respect to a combined wage
239 claim, as described in subsection (b) of section 31-255, shall be the base
240 period of the paying state, except that for any individual who is eligible
241 to receive or is receiving workers' compensation or who is properly
242 absent from work under the terms of the employer's sick leave or
243 disability leave policy, the base period shall be the [first four of the five
244 most recently worked quarters] four consecutive quarters immediately
245 preceding the most recently worked quarter prior to such benefit year,

246 provided such quarters were [consecutive and] not previously used to
247 establish a prior valid benefit year and provided further, the last most
248 recently worked calendar quarter is no more than twelve calendar
249 quarters prior to the date such individual makes an initiating claim. As
250 used in this section, an initiating claim shall be deemed valid if the
251 individual is unemployed and meets the requirements of subdivisions
252 (1) and (3) of subsection (a) of section 31-235, as amended by this act.
253 The base period of an individual's benefit year shall include wages paid
254 by any nonprofit organization electing reimbursement in lieu of
255 contributions, or by the state and by any town, city or other political or
256 governmental subdivision of or in this state or of any municipality to
257 such person with respect to whom such employer is subject to the
258 provisions of this chapter. With respect to weeks of unemployment
259 beginning on or after January 1, 1978, wages for insured work shall
260 include wages paid for previously uncovered services. For purposes of
261 this section, the term "previously uncovered services" means services
262 that (1) were not employment, as defined in section 31-222, and were
263 not services covered pursuant to section 31-223, at any time during the
264 one-year period ending December 31, 1975; and (2) (A) are agricultural
265 labor, as defined in subparagraph (H) of subdivision (1) of subsection
266 (a) of section 31-222, or domestic service, as defined in subparagraph (J)
267 of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 31-222, or (B) are services
268 performed by an employee of this state or a political subdivision of this
269 state, as provided in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection
270 (a) of section 31-222, or by an employee of a nonprofit educational
271 institution that is not an institution of higher education, as provided in
272 subparagraph (E)(iii) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 31-
273 222, except to the extent that assistance under Title II of the Emergency
274 Jobs and Unemployment Assistance Act of 1974 was paid on the basis
275 of such services.

276 (b) The base period of a benefit year for any individual who is
277 ineligible to receive benefits using the base period set forth in subsection
278 (a) of this section shall be the four most recently completed calendar
279 quarters prior to the individual's benefit year, provided such quarters
280 were not previously used to establish a prior valid benefit year, except

281 that for any such individual who is eligible to receive or is receiving
282 workers' compensation or who is properly absent from work under the
283 terms of an employer's sick leave or disability leave policy, the base
284 period shall be the [four most recently worked calendar quarters] four
285 consecutive quarters immediately preceding the most recently worked
286 quarter prior to such benefit year, provided such quarters were
287 [consecutive and] not previously used to establish a prior valid benefit
288 year and provided further, the last most recently worked calendar
289 quarter is not more than twelve calendar quarters prior to the date such
290 individual makes the initiating claim. If the wage information for an
291 individual's most recently worked calendar quarter is unavailable to the
292 administrator from regular quarterly reports of systematically
293 accessible wage information, the administrator shall promptly contact
294 the individual's employer to obtain such wage information.

295 Sec. 8. Section 31-235 of the general statutes is repealed and the
296 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

297 (a) An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits
298 with respect to any week only if it has been found that (1) such
299 individual has made claim for benefits in accordance with the
300 provisions of section 31-240 and has registered for work at the public
301 employment bureau or other agency designated by the administrator
302 within such time limits, with such frequency and in such manner as the
303 administrator may prescribe, provided failure to comply with this
304 condition may be excused by the administrator upon a showing of good
305 cause therefor; (2) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,
306 such individual is physically and mentally able to work and is available
307 for work and has been and is making reasonable efforts to obtain work,
308 provided the individual shall not be considered to be unavailable for
309 work solely because the individual is attending a school, college or
310 university as a regularly enrolled student during the separation from
311 employment, within the limitations of subdivision (6) of subsection (a)
312 of section 31-236, and provided further, the individual shall not be
313 considered to be lacking in efforts to obtain work if, as a student, such
314 efforts are restricted to employment which does not conflict with the

315 individual's regular class hours as a student, and provided the
316 administrator shall not use prior "patterns of unemployment" of the
317 individual to determine whether the individual is available for work; (3)
318 such individual has been paid wages by an employer who was subject
319 to the provisions of this chapter during the base period of the current
320 benefit year in an amount at least equal to forty times the individual's
321 benefit rate for total unemployment, provided an unemployed
322 individual who is sixty-two years of age or older and is involuntarily
323 retired under a compulsory retirement policy or contract provision shall
324 be eligible for benefits with respect to any week, notwithstanding
325 subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, if it is found by the
326 administrator that the individual has made claim for benefits in
327 accordance with the provisions of section 31-240, has registered for
328 work at the public employment bureau, is physically and mentally able
329 to work, is available for work, meets the requirements of this
330 subdivision and has not refused suitable work to which the individual
331 has been referred by the administrator; (4) such individual participates
332 in reemployment services, such as job search assistance services, if the
333 individual has been determined to be likely to exhaust regular benefits
334 and need reemployment services pursuant to a profiling system or
335 Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment program
336 established by the administrator unless the administrator determines
337 that (A) for purposes of the profiling system only, the individual has
338 completed such services, or (B) there is justifiable cause for the
339 individual's failure to participate in such services. The administrator
340 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
341 for the administration of the profiling system and the Reemployment
342 Services and Eligibility Assessment program. For purposes of
343 subdivision (2) of this subsection, "patterns of unemployment" means
344 regularly recurring periods of unemployment of the claimant in the
345 years prior to filing the claim in question.

346 (b) The provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section
347 relating to the eligibility of students for benefits shall not be applicable
348 to any claimant who attended a school, college or university as a
349 regularly enrolled full-time student at any time during the two years

350 prior to such claimant's date of separation from employment, unless
351 such claimant was employed on a full-time basis, as determined by the
352 administrator, for the two years prior to such date.

353 (c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this
354 section, an unemployed individual may limit such individual's
355 availability for work to part-time employment, provided the individual
356 (A) provides documentation from a licensed physician or an advanced
357 practice registered nurse that (i) the individual has a physical or mental
358 impairment that is chronic or is expected to be long-term or permanent
359 in nature, and (ii) the individual is unable to work full-time because of
360 such impairment, and (B) establishes, to the satisfaction of the
361 administrator, that such limitation does not effectively remove such
362 individual from the labor force.

363 (2) In determining whether the individual has satisfied the
364 requirements of subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection,
365 the administrator shall consider the individual's work history, efforts to
366 find work, the hours such individual is medically permitted to work and
367 the individual's availability during such hours for work that is suitable
368 in light of the individual's impairment.

369 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 32-235 of the general statutes is
370 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
371 *1, 2021*):

372 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount
373 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department
374 of Economic and Community Development (1) for the purposes of
375 sections 32-220 to 32-234, inclusive, including economic cluster-related
376 programs and activities, and for the Connecticut job training finance
377 demonstration program pursuant to sections 32-23uu and 32-23vv,
378 provided (A) three million dollars shall be used by said department
379 solely for the purposes of section 32-23uu, [and not more than five
380 million two hundred fifty thousand dollars of the amount stated in said
381 subsection (a) may be used by said department for the purposes of
382 section 31-3u,] (B) not less than one million dollars shall be used for an

383 educational technology grant to the deployment center program and the
384 nonprofit business consortium deployment center approved pursuant
385 to section 32-41l, (C) not less than two million dollars shall be used by
386 said department for the establishment of a pilot program to make grants
387 to businesses in designated areas of the state for construction,
388 renovation or improvement of small manufacturing facilities, provided
389 such grants are matched by the business, a municipality or another
390 financing entity. The Commissioner of Economic and Community
391 Development shall designate areas of the state where manufacturing is
392 a substantial part of the local economy and shall make grants under such
393 pilot program which are likely to produce a significant economic
394 development benefit for the designated area, (D) five million dollars
395 may be used by said department for the manufacturing competitiveness
396 grants program, (E) one million dollars shall be used by said department
397 for the purpose of a grant to the Connecticut Center for Advanced
398 Technology, for the purposes of subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of
399 section 32-7f, (F) fifty million dollars shall be used by said department
400 for the purpose of grants to the United States Department of the Navy,
401 the United States Department of Defense or eligible applicants for
402 projects related to the enhancement of infrastructure for long-term, on-
403 going naval operations at the United States Naval Submarine Base-New
404 London, located in Groton, which will increase the military value of said
405 base. Such projects shall not be subject to the provisions of sections 4a-
406 60 and 4a-60a, (G) two million dollars shall be used by said department
407 for the purpose of a grant to the Connecticut Center for Advanced
408 Technology, Inc., for manufacturing initiatives, including aerospace and
409 defense, and (H) four million dollars shall be used by said department
410 for the purpose of a grant to companies adversely impacted by the
411 construction at the Quinnipiac Bridge, where such grant may be used to
412 offset the increase in costs of commercial overland transportation of
413 goods or materials brought to the port of New Haven by ship or vessel,
414 (2) for the purposes of the small business assistance program established
415 pursuant to section 32-9yy, provided fifteen million dollars shall be
416 deposited in the small business assistance account established pursuant
417 to said section 32-9yy, (3) to deposit twenty million dollars in the small

418 business express assistance account established pursuant to section 32-
419 7h, (4) to deposit four million nine hundred thousand dollars per year
420 in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2019,
421 inclusive, and June 30, 2021, and nine million nine hundred thousand
422 dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, in the CTNext Fund
423 established pursuant to section 32-39i, which shall be used by CTNext
424 to provide grants-in-aid to designated innovation places, as defined in
425 section 32-39j, planning grants-in-aid pursuant to section 32-39l, and
426 grants-in-aid for projects that network innovation places pursuant to
427 subsection (b) of section 32-39m, provided not more than three million
428 dollars be used for grants-in-aid for such projects, and further provided
429 any portion of any such deposit that remains unexpended in a fiscal year
430 subsequent to the date of such deposit may be used by CTNext for any
431 purpose described in subsection (e) of section 32-39i, (5) to deposit two
432 million dollars per year in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019,
433 to June 30, 2021, inclusive, in the CTNext Fund established pursuant to
434 section 32-39i, which shall be used by CTNext for the purpose of
435 providing higher education entrepreneurship grants-in-aid pursuant to
436 section 32-39g, provided any portion of any such deposit that remains
437 unexpended in a fiscal year subsequent to the date of such deposit may
438 be used by CTNext for any purpose described in subsection (e) of section
439 32-39i, (6) for the purpose of funding the costs of the Technology Talent
440 Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 32-7p, provided
441 two million dollars per year in each of the fiscal years ending June 30,
442 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, shall be used for such purpose, (7) to
443 provide (A) a grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Supplier Connection in an
444 amount equal to two hundred fifty thousand dollars in each of the fiscal
445 years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, and (B) a grant-
446 in-aid to the Connecticut Procurement Technical Assistance Program in
447 an amount equal to three hundred thousand dollars in each of the fiscal
448 years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, (8) to deposit four
449 hundred fifty thousand dollars per year, in each of the fiscal years
450 ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, in the CTNext Fund
451 established pursuant to section 32-39i, which shall be used by CTNext
452 to provide growth grants-in-aid pursuant to section 32-39g, provided

453 any portion of any such deposit that remains unexpended in a fiscal year
454 subsequent to the date of such deposit may be used by CTNext for any
455 purpose described in subsection (e) of section 32-39i, (9) to transfer fifty
456 million dollars to the Labor Department which shall be used by said
457 department for the purpose of funding work force pipeline programs
458 selected pursuant to section 31-11rr, provided, notwithstanding the
459 provisions of section 31-11rr, (A) not less than five million dollars shall
460 be provided to the workforce development board in Bridgeport serving
461 the southwest region, for purposes of such program, and the board shall
462 distribute such money in proportion to population and need, and (B)
463 not less than five million dollars shall be provided to the workforce
464 development board in Hartford serving the north central region, for
465 purposes of such program, (10) to transfer twenty million dollars to
466 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, provided ten million dollars
467 shall be used by Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated for the purpose
468 of the proof of concept fund established pursuant to subsection (b) of
469 section 32-39x and ten million dollars shall be used by Connecticut
470 Innovations, Incorporated for the purpose of the venture capital fund
471 program established pursuant to section 32-41oo. Not later than thirty
472 days prior to any use of unexpended funds under subdivision (4), (5) or
473 (8) of this subsection, the CTNext board of directors shall provide notice
474 of and the reason for such use to the joint standing committees of the
475 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
476 and finance, revenue and bonding.

477 Sec. 10. Section 10a-72d of the general statutes is repealed and the
478 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

479 The Board of Trustees for the Community-Technical Colleges shall
480 establish procedures for (1) the development of articulation agreements
481 between the regional community-technical colleges and the Technical
482 Education and Career System in order to ensure a successful transition
483 to higher education for students attending a technical education and
484 career school, and (2) the awarding of appropriate college credit for
485 persons enrolled in and registered under the terms of a qualified
486 apprenticeship training program, certified in accordance with

487 regulations adopted by the Labor Commissioner and registered with the
 488 [Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council established] Labor
 489 Department under section [31-22n] 31-22r.

490 Sec. 11. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of
 491 section 16a-3n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
 492 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

493 (B) In responding to any solicitations issued pursuant to this section,
 494 a bidder may include such bidder's plans for the use of skilled labor,
 495 including, but not limited to, for any construction and manufacturing
 496 components of the proposal including any outreach, hiring and referral
 497 systems, or any combination thereof, that are affiliated with an
 498 apprenticeship training program registered with the [Connecticut State
 499 Apprenticeship Council established] Labor Department pursuant to
 500 section [31-22n] 31-22r.

501 Sec. 12. Sections 31-3a, 31-3g, 31-3u, 31-3ff, 31-3ii, 31-22s and 31-76n
 502 of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-95h
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	12-217g
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	31-3b
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	31-3pp(e)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	31-22m
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	31-22o
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	31-230
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	31-235
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	32-235(b)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10a-72d
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	16a-3n(a)(3)(B)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Throughout Section 2, "[Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council]
Labor Department established under [section 31-22n,] sections 31-22m

to 31-22v, inclusive, as amended by this act" was changed to "[Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council established] Labor Department under section [31-22n] 31-22r" for accuracy; in Section 8(a), "profiling or Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment system" and "Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment system and the profiling system" were changed to "profiling system or Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment program" and "profiling system and the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment program", respectively, for accuracy and consistency; Section 9 was renumbered as Section 12 for consistency with standard drafting conventions; Sections 9 to 11, inclusive, were added to conform with the changes being made in Sections 2 and 12; and the title was changed for accuracy.

LAB *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which makes various minor, technical and conforming changes, does not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 903*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO STATUTES CONCERNING APPRENTICESHIPS AND OTHER LABOR STATUTES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill modifies the definition of “preapprentice” under the Department of Labor’s (DOL) subsidized training and employment program for eligible small businesses and manufacturers. Specifically, it (1) expands the definition to include non-students ages 19 and older and (2) applies the definition to existing law on apprenticeship programs and the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council (hereafter, “council”) (§§ 4 & 5). In doing so, it conforms to the definition in an existing statute that bans employing minors in certain hazardous occupations.

The bill also modifies the council’s duties and makes various minor and conforming changes to the apprenticeship laws (§§ 2, 6, 9-11).

Additionally, the bill:

1. modifies a labor commissioner annual reporting requirement to three legislative committees regarding the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) (§ 1);
2. modifies the unemployment compensation base period for claimants who are on workers’ compensation or sick or disability leave under an employer’s leave policy and eliminates the alternative base period for those claimants (§ 7);
3. allows unemployment claimants considered likely to exhaust their regular benefits to use the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RSEA) program, instead of a profiling system for job search assistance (§ 8); and

4. repeals a number of obsolete statutes, on, among other things, a job training coordinator position, a manpower study, the displaced homemakers program, training for ISO 9000 standards, and the Connecticut Low Wage Advisory Board (§§ 3, 12).

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except changes to the apprenticeship laws in §§ 9-11 are effective October 1, 2021.

§ 4 — PREAPPRENTICE DEFINITION

By law, DOL's subsidized training and employment program provides grants to help cover training costs and pay for the first 180 days of a new employee's ("preapprentice") job with an eligible small business or small manufacturer.

Under current law, a preapprentice must be either (1) a current high school, preparatory school, or higher education student or (2) age 18 or younger. The bill instead defines a preapprentice as a person, student, or minor. In doing so, it permits a non-student age 19 or older to participate in the program.

Under current law and unchanged by the bill, the preapprentice must be employed under a written agreement with an apprenticeship sponsor for a training and employment term no longer than 2,000 hours or 24 months in duration. The bill also requires the preapprentice to be registered with DOL.

§1 — CTECS MEETING REPORTING REQUIREMENT

By law, several state officials, including the labor commissioner, must meet each year with the Education, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Labor and Public Employees committees to discuss, among other things, the state's workforce needs, economic and occupational trends, and the employment status of graduates of CTECS high schools (formerly known as the technical high school system).

The bill requires the labor commissioner to provide information

identifying emerging regional, state, and national workforce needs over the next 10 years, instead of the next 30 years, as under current law.

§§ 2, 6, & 9-11 — STATE APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL

Current law requires (1) the council to formulate policies to administer the apprenticeship statutes and (2) all apprenticeship programs to register with the council. The bill instead requires the council to assist in recommending policies to DOL and requires all programs to register with DOL. Additionally, the bill authorizes the council to recommend minimum apprenticeship standards, rather than adopt recommendations for these standards.

The bill also removes references to the council and replaces them with DOL in several statutes.

§ 7 — UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BASE PERIOD

By law, unemployment compensation is based in part on the claimant's work base period before becoming unemployed. Under current law, the base period for claimants who are also receiving workers' compensation benefits, or who are properly absent from work under the employer's sick leave or disability leave policy, is the first four of the five most recently worked quarters. The bill instead makes the claimant's work base period the four consecutive quarters immediately preceding the most recently worked quarter. Under current law, the quarters are not required to be consecutive, thus allowing an employee who was in and out of work over a period of time to use quarters from over a longer period.

The bill also changes a claimant's work base period in the same manner for the alternative base period, which is used if a claimant is ineligible under the base period described above. In doing so, it eliminates an alternative base period for claimants receiving workers' compensation or who are out of work on an employer's leave policy.

Under current law, the alternative base period uses the four most recently worked calendar quarters for claimants who are receiving workers' compensation benefits or who are absent from work under the

employer’s sick or disability leave policy. The bill changes this period to the four consecutive quarters immediately preceding the most recently worked quarter, thus it matches the bill’s change for the standard base period.

§ 8 — RSEA AND EMPLOYMENT SEARCH ASSISTANCE

Under current law, unemployment claimants must participate in reemployment services in order to continue to receive benefits. Claimants considered likely to exhaust their regular benefits must also use a reemployment profiling system, unless they have already used it or have justifiable cause for not participating. The bill additionally allows claimants to use RSEA as an alternative to the profiling system.

The bill also requires the commissioner to adopt regulations to administer the RSEA.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)