

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-903

AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE LABOR

Title: DEPARTMENT STATUTES.

Vote Date: 3/18/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor and Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The Labor Department needs technical changes and updates.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

KURT WESTBY, COMMISSIONER, CT DEPT. OF LABOR

Commissioner Westby's testimony explained the revisions which seek to create more appropriate time frames for economic forecasting that identify emerging regional, state, and national workforce needs. The DOL is required to provide a 30 year-forecast, but this data is not available. They are requesting to change to a 10-year forecast since the agency regularly forecasts for a 10-year cycle. It also amends the statutory requirement that the DOL appoint a job training coordinator to develop job training programs. This is a duplicate program already covered by the apprenticeship program. The bill codifies labor statutes regarding the definition of a "pre-apprenticeship" so that someone can earn additional on-the-job credits toward a registered apprenticeship. The bill also amends unemployment insurance statutes regarding the earning period used to determine eligibility and weekly benefit amounts for claimants who have been absent from work due to a workers' compensation injury or approved medical leave. This will ensure alignment with the information technology modernization project. The bill also looks into a reference to the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment to reflect current practice as directed by the federal government. Various obsolete statutes should be repealed, including the CT Low Wage Employer Advisory Board.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None submitted.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by: Marie Knudsen, Assistant Clerk

Date: March 15, 2021