



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 301

February Session, 2022

House Bill No. 5399

House of Representatives, April 5, 2022

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. HORN of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PROJECT LONGEVITY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-68bb of the 2022 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) For purposes of this section, "Project Longevity Initiative" means
5 a comprehensive community-based initiative that is designed to reduce
6 gun violence in the state's cities and "secretary" means the Secretary of
7 the Office of Policy and Management.

8 (b) Pursuant to the provisions of section 4-66a, the secretary shall (1)
9 provide planning and management assistance to municipal officials in
10 the city of New Haven in order to ensure the continued implementation
11 of the Project Longevity Initiative in said city and the secretary may
12 utilize state and federal funds as may be appropriated for such purpose;
13 and (2) do all things necessary to apply for and accept federal funds
14 allotted to or available to the state under any federal act or program

15 which support the continued implementation of the Project Longevity
16 Initiative in the city of New Haven.

17 (c) The secretary, or the secretary's designee, in consultation with the
18 United States Attorney for the district of Connecticut, the Chief State's
19 Attorney, the Commissioner of Correction, the executive director of the
20 Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, the mayors of
21 the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport and Waterbury, and clergy members,
22 nonprofit service providers and community leaders from the cities of
23 Hartford, Bridgeport and Waterbury, shall implement the Project
24 Longevity Initiative in the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport and Waterbury.

25 (d) Pursuant to the provisions of section 4-66a, the secretary shall (1)
26 provide planning and management assistance to municipal officials in
27 the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport and Waterbury in order to ensure
28 implementation of the Project Longevity Initiative in said cities and the
29 secretary may utilize state and federal funds as may be appropriated for
30 such purpose; and (2) do all things necessary to apply for and accept
31 federal funds allotted to or available to the state under any federal act
32 or program which will support implementation of the Project Longevity
33 Initiative in the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport and Waterbury.

34 (e) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may accept
35 and receive on behalf of the office, subject to the provisions of section
36 4b-22, any bequest, devise or grant made to the Office of Policy and
37 Management to further the objectives of the Project Longevity Initiative
38 and may hold and use such property for the purpose specified, if any,
39 in such bequest, devise or gift.

40 [(f) The secretary, in consultation with the federal and state officials
41 described in subsection (c) of this section, shall create a plan for
42 implementation of the Project Longevity Initiative on a state-wide basis.
43 Such plan shall, at a minimum, consider how to provide clients served
44 by the Project Longevity Initiative with access to courses of instruction
45 and apprentice programs provided by, but not limited to, a college, a
46 university, a community college or the Technical Education and Career
47 System. Not later than February 1, 2022, the secretary shall submit such

48 plan to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
49 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security in
50 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.]

51 (f) The secretary, or any entity awarded funding to coordinate the
52 activities of the Project Longevity Initiative implemented in Bridgeport,
53 Hartford, New Haven or Waterbury, shall seek to maximize the
54 educational, employment and career services that are offered to clients
55 served by the Project Longevity Initiative. The Governor's Workforce
56 Council, established pursuant to section 31-3h, as amended by this act,
57 the regional workforce development board, established pursuant to
58 section 31-3k, as amended by this act, serving the applicable city, and
59 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, established pursuant to
60 section 10a-1a, shall coordinate with the secretary or such entity, as
61 appropriate, to develop strategies and ensure the delivery of
62 educational, employment and career services to Project Longevity
63 Initiative clients. The secretary or such entity, as appropriate, shall also
64 consult with (1) trade unions and other entities that may be able to assist
65 in offering employment opportunities and career pathways to Project
66 Longevity Initiative clients, and (2) private providers and the
67 Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the availability of commercial
68 driver's license training for Project Longevity Initiative clients.

69 (g) The secretary, or any entity awarded funding to coordinate the
70 activities of the Project Longevity Initiative implemented in Bridgeport,
71 Hartford, New Haven or Waterbury, shall supplement the programs
72 and services of the Project Longevity Initiative by:

73 (1) Increasing the ability to connect clients to nonprofit and public
74 agencies with a primary mission of vocational education and workforce
75 development to assist clients in developing their careers;

76 (2) Expanding the employment services provided to clients in a
77 manner that meets the needs of clients in alignment with job
78 opportunities in the state;

79 (3) Using more effectively the job training programs operated by

80 regional workforce development boards and community providers that
81 specialize in vocational education and workforce development services
82 for people facing employment barriers because of a criminal record,
83 work history or other factors;

84 (4) Increasing client participation in the Technical Education and
85 Career System, community colleges, colleges and universities;

86 (5) Developing partnerships with the Court Support Services
87 Division of the Judicial Branch, the Department of Correction and other
88 criminal justice agencies to coordinate programs for people who may
89 become clients after release from incarceration or supervision;

90 (6) Expanding connections with social service and other community-
91 based service organizations;

92 (7) Identifying business and training programs committed to hiring
93 or providing services to clients;

94 (8) Increasing coordination with the Department of Motor Vehicles to
95 increase clients' access to driver's licenses and with the Department of
96 Social Services to improve client access to other supports;

97 (9) Developing relationships with local chambers of commerce to
98 coordinate reentry services in the community and expand training and
99 employment opportunities with businesses;

100 (10) Supporting the development of short-and long-term public and
101 private investments in clients;

102 (11) Improving coordination with federal, state and local violence
103 reduction strategies and programs;

104 (12) Including providers and employers who have successfully
105 helped clients in activities that reach prospective clients; and

106 (13) Analyzing program and service delivery to ensure that programs
107 and services are coordinated and aligned with the goals of the Project
108 Longevity Initiative.

109 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the 2022 supplement to the
110 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
111 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

112 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
113 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System, the
114 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
115 College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and
116 postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System,
117 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
118 College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3)
119 establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State
120 University System, the regional community-technical college system
121 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the
122 effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional
123 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in
124 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) merge or close
125 institutions within the Connecticut State University System, the regional
126 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College in
127 accordance with criteria established by the board, provided (A) such
128 recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds vote of the
129 board, and (B) notice of such recommended merger or closing shall be
130 sent to the committee having cognizance over matters relating to
131 education and to the General Assembly; (6) review and approve mission
132 statements for the Connecticut State University System, the regional
133 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College and
134 role and scope statements for the individual institutions and campuses
135 of such constituent units; (7) review and approve any recommendations
136 for the establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board
137 by the state universities within the Connecticut State University System,
138 the regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State
139 College, and, in consultation with the affected constituent units, provide
140 for the initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs;
141 (8) develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs at the
142 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical
143 college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B) institutions

144 within the Connecticut State University System and the regional
145 community-technical college system and enforce standards through
146 licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the Governor and
147 General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated
148 operating and capital expenditure budgets for the Connecticut State
149 University System, the regional community-technical college system
150 and Charter Oak State College developed in accordance with the
151 provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and make
152 recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State
153 University System, the regional community-technical college system
154 and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in
155 section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives
156 from public and independent institutions of higher education to study
157 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public institutions
158 of higher education under its jurisdiction with The University of
159 Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to
160 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12) evaluate (A)
161 means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and (B)
162 any recommendations made by the Planning Commission for Higher
163 Education in implementing the strategic master plan pursuant to section
164 10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as
165 external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate programs
166 and services among the Connecticut State University System, the
167 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
168 College; (14) assess opportunities for collaboration with The University
169 of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to
170 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into
171 contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its
172 responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate
173 by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23;
174 (16) be responsible for the care and maintenance of permanent records
175 of institutions of higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969;
176 (17) prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly
177 legislative proposals affecting the Connecticut State University System,
178 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State

179 College; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education
180 information system and establish definitions and data requirements for
181 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
182 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) until June
183 30, 2024, report all new programs and program changes at the
184 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical
185 college system and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher
186 Education; (20) coordinate with the Project Longevity Initiative, as
187 defined in section 4-68bb, as amended by this act, to develop strategies
188 and ensure the delivery of educational, employment and career services
189 to Project Longevity Initiative clients; and [(20)] (21) undertake such
190 studies and other activities as will best serve the higher educational
191 interests of the Connecticut State University System, the regional
192 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College.

193 Sec. 3. Section 31-3h of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is
194 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
195 *passage*):

196 (a) There is created, within the Office of Workforce Strategy, the
197 Governor's Workforce Council. The Governor's Workforce Council shall
198 constitute a successor council to the Connecticut Employment and
199 Training Commission in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-
200 38d and 4-39.

201 (b) The duties and responsibilities of the council shall include:

202 (1) Carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a state workforce
203 board pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
204 Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from time to time, and such other
205 related responsibilities as the Governor may direct;

206 (2) Supporting the implementation of the federal Workforce
207 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from
208 time to time;

209 (3) Making recommendations to the General Assembly concerning

210 the formula for allocation of funds received by the state under the
211 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-
212 128, as amended from time to time, pursuant to the provisions of
213 sections 31-11m and 31-11s; [and]

214 (4) Convening state agencies, educational institutions, business
215 leaders and others to (A) inform state policy regarding workforce
216 development, (B) help state agencies and educational institutions align
217 with the needs of employers, and (C) help businesses understand how
218 to contribute to the state's workforce efforts; and

219 (5) Coordinating with the Project Longevity Initiative, as defined in
220 section 4-68bb, as amended by this act, to develop strategies and ensure
221 the delivery of educational, employment and career services to Project
222 Longevity Initiative clients.

223 Sec. 4. Section 31-3k of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is
224 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
225 *passage*):

226 (a) There is established within the Labor Department a regional
227 workforce development board for each workforce development region
228 in the state.

229 (b) Each board, within its region, in accordance with the Connecticut
230 workforce development plan approved by the Governor and developed
231 by the Governor's Workforce Council pursuant section 31-11p, the state
232 workforce strategy approved by the Governor and developed by the
233 Chief Workforce Officer pursuant to section 4-124w, any guidance
234 issued by the Chief Workforce Officer pursuant to section 4-124w and
235 any guidance issued by the Labor Commissioner, shall:

236 (1) (A) Assess the needs and priorities for investing in the
237 development of human resources within the region and shall coordinate
238 a broad range of employment, education, training and related services
239 that shall be focused on client-centered, lifelong learning, (B) be
240 responsive to the needs of local business, industry, the region, its

241 municipalities and its residents, and (C) be the lead agency for any local
242 workforce development initiative.

243 (2) Within existing resources and consistent with the state
244 employment and training information system (A) assess regional needs
245 and identify regional priorities for employment and training programs,
246 including, but not limited to, an assessment of the special employment
247 needs of unskilled and low-skilled unemployed persons, including
248 persons receiving state-administered general assistance or short-term
249 unemployment assistance, (B) conduct planning for regional
250 employment and training programs, (C) coordinate such programs to
251 ensure that the programs respond to the needs of labor, business and
252 industry, municipalities within the region, the region as a whole, and all
253 of its citizens, (D) serve as a clearinghouse for information on all
254 employment and training programs in the region, (E) review grant
255 proposals and plans submitted to state agencies for employment and
256 training programs that directly affect the region and inform the
257 Governor's Workforce Council and each state agency concerned of the
258 results of the review, (F) ensure the effective use of available
259 employment and training resources in the region, and (G) allocate funds
260 where applicable for program operations in the region.

261 (3) Provide information to the commissioner, Chief Workforce Officer
262 or Governor's Workforce Council that the commissioner, Chief
263 Workforce Officer or Governor's Workforce Council deems essential for
264 effective state planning.

265 (4) Carry out the duties and responsibilities of the local workforce
266 development board for purposes of the Workforce Innovation and
267 Opportunity Act.

268 (5) Coordinate with the Project Longevity Initiative, as defined in
269 section 4-68bb, as amended by this act, to develop strategies and ensure
270 the delivery of educational, employment and career services to Project
271 Longevity Initiative clients.

272 (c) Each board shall make use of grants or contracts with appropriate

273 service providers to furnish all program services under sections 31-3j to
 274 31-3r, inclusive, unless the Governor's Workforce Council concurs with
 275 the board that direct provision of a service by the board is necessary to
 276 assure adequate availability of the service or that a service of
 277 comparable quality can be provided more economically by the board.
 278 Any board seeking to provide services directly shall submit to the
 279 commissioner, the Chief Workforce Officer and the Governor's
 280 Workforce Council a plan of service and appropriate justification for the
 281 need to provide services directly. Such plan of service shall be subject to
 282 review and approval by the Governor's Workforce Council.

283 (d) On October 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, each board shall
 284 submit in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
 285 Act, data and comprehensive performance measures detailing the
 286 results of any education, employment or job training program or
 287 activity funded by moneys allocated to the board, including, but not
 288 limited to, programs and activities specified in said act. The Labor
 289 Commissioner and the Chief Workforce Officer may require the
 290 submission of additional data and performance measures through
 291 guidance jointly by said commissioner and officer.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	4-68bb
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10a-6(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	31-3h
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	31-3k

PS *Joint Favorable*

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 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Various - Cost	115,052	115,052
Governor's Off.	GF - Cost	70,000	None
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	28,371	None
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	Up to 280,000	Up to 280,000

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the scope of the Project Longevity Initiative to include provision of educational and employment opportunities for program participants. The bill specifies responsibilities for the Office of Policy and Management, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Governor's Workforce Council. Below are the costs to each of the three agencies associated with the bill:

Office of Policy and Management

There is a cost of up to \$280,000 annually to the Office of Policy and Management to fund one Education, Employment and Career Services coordinator at each of the four Project Longevity sites (Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, and Waterbury). It is anticipated that this funding

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 40.53% of payroll in FY 23.

would be provided as additional grants to the nonprofit organizations that operate the program at each site.

Board of Regents for Higher Education

There is an anticipated annual cost to the Board of Regents of \$115,052 beginning in FY 23. The Board of Regents does not currently have personnel dedicated to Project Longevity or similar initiatives. To ensure the delivery of educational, employment, and career services to program clients as required by the bill, the board will need to hire an additional Program Coordinator. It is expected that the position will have annual salary costs of \$57,604, with an associated fringe benefits cost of \$57,448, based on the board's salary range for an existing coordinator position.² This increased personnel cost may be funded by either the General Fund or other Board of Regents revenues (e.g., tuition). If the new position is funded through the General Fund, then the fringe benefits costs will be incurred within the Office of the State Comptroller.

Governor's Workforce Council

There is an anticipated one-time cost of approximately \$98,371 in FY 23 to the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS), which serves as the administrative staff for the Governor's Workforce Council. This includes \$70,000 for a durational Project Coordinator and associated fringe benefits of \$28,371. The Governor's Workforce Council currently does not have the staff available within OWS to complete the requirements contained within this bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

² The fringe benefit costs for employees funded out of other appropriated funds are budgeted within the fringe benefit account of those funds, as opposed to the fringe benefit accounts within the Office of the State Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes for other appropriated fund employees is 99.73% of payroll in FY 23.

continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5399*****AN ACT CONCERNING PROJECT LONGEVITY.*****SUMMARY**

By law, the Project Longevity Initiative is a comprehensive, community-based initiative to reduce gun violence that operates in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury. This bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, or any entity awarded funding to coordinate the program's four sites (i.e., coordinating entity), to maximize the educational, employment, and career services offered to Project Longevity's clients.

Specifically, the bill requires the OPM secretary or coordinating entity to (1) coordinate with certain workforce development, higher education, and labor groups, among others, and (2) implement specified initiatives to expand the initiative's educational and employment opportunities. The bill also eliminates an obsolete provision that required OPM, by February 1, 2022, to create a plan to implement the initiative statewide and submit it to the legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Under the bill, the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR), Governor's Workforce Council, and regional workforce development board serving each applicable city must coordinate with the secretary or coordinating entity, as appropriate, to develop strategies for delivering educational, employment, and career services to the initiative's clients. The secretary or coordinating entity must also consult with:

1. trade unions and other entities that can assist in offering employment opportunities and career pathways for program

clients and

2. private providers and the Department of Motor Vehicles on the availability of commercial driver's license training for the clients.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The bill requires the OPM secretary or coordinating entity to supplement the initiative's programs and services by:

1. helping clients' career development by increasing connections to nonprofit and public agencies with a primary mission of vocational education and workforce development;
2. expanding employment services to meet client needs and align with in-state job opportunities;
3. increasing the use of the job training programs operated by regional workforce development boards and community providers specializing in vocational education and workforce development services for people facing employment barriers (e.g., criminal record or lack of, or inconsistent, work history);
4. increasing client participation in the Technical Education and Career System and higher education;
5. developing partnerships with the judicial branch's Court Support Services Division, Department of Correction, and other criminal justice agencies to coordinate programs for people who may become clients after release from incarceration or supervision;
6. expanding connections to social service and other community-based service organizations;
7. identifying business and training programs committed to hiring or providing services to clients;
8. increasing coordination with the motor vehicles and social

- services departments to increase clients' access to driver's licenses and other supports;
9. developing relationships with local chambers of commerce to coordinate community reentry services and expand training and employment opportunities with businesses;
 10. supporting the development of short- and long-term public and private investments in clients;
 11. improving coordination with federal, state, and local violence reduction strategies and programs;
 12. including providers and employers who have successfully helped clients reach other prospective clients; and
 13. analyzing program and service delivery to ensure that it is coordinated and aligned with the initiative's goals.

BACKGROUND

Project Longevity

Project Longevity was first launched in 2012 in New Haven and subsequently expanded to Hartford and Bridgeport in 2013 and Waterbury in 2021. Since October 2021, the nonprofit The Justice Education Center, Inc. has served as the program administrator, provided statewide coordination and technical assistance, and supervised personnel and fiduciary responsibilities at the four program sites.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/22/2022)