



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 242

February Session, 2022

Substitute Senate Bill No. 251

Senate, March 31, 2022

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 EXPANDING TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR CAREERS IN HEALTH CARE.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Workforce Strategy,
2 in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Labor
3 Department, the Office of Higher Education, The University of
4 Connecticut, The University of Connecticut Health Center, the
5 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the Connecticut
6 Conference of Independent Colleges and the Connecticut Hospital
7 Association, shall develop an initiative to address the state's health care
8 workforce shortage. Such initiative shall seek to increase the number of
9 health care workers in the state through the offering of expanded and
10 enhanced educational programs at institutions of higher education in
11 the state. The program shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
12 (1) Expansion of existing health care related academic programs to
13 promote increased enrollment and retention of students in such
14 programs; (2) development of alternative academic programs that are

15 designed to assimilate displaced workers and other individuals who
16 seek to make a career change into the health care workforce; (3)
17 recruitment and retention of underserved populations in the health care
18 workforce; (4) development of distance learning initiatives for
19 individuals who seek to enter the health care workforce; and (5)
20 development of on-the-job training initiatives that are designed to
21 provide valuable work experience to those receiving the training and
22 assist in alleviating health care workforce shortages, particularly in
23 areas of the state with underserved populations.

24 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Chief Workforce Officer shall
25 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
26 statutes, on the initiative developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
27 section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
28 cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment
29 advancement, public health and labor and public employees.

30 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Housing and the
31 executive director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall
32 seek a partnership with one or more hospitals located in the state to
33 increase workforce housing options. Not later than January 1, 2023, the
34 commissioner and the executive director shall submit, in accordance
35 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report
36 detailing the status of any such partnership and any recommendations
37 on other methods to increase such housing options to the joint standing
38 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
39 relating to housing.

40 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The Chief Workforce Officer, in
41 consultation with members of the Connecticut Hospital Association and
42 of community-based professional nursing organizations and
43 representatives of the nursing home industry, shall develop a plan to
44 work with high schools in the state in order to encourage students to
45 pursue careers as nurses, medical assistants, emergency department
46 technicians, surgical assistants and other high demand careers in health
47 care. Not later than January 1, 2023, the Chief Workforce Officer shall

48 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 49 statutes, such plan to the joint standing committee of the General
 50 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
 51 and employment advancement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "executive director of the Office of Higher Education" was changed to "Chief Workforce Officer" for accuracy and consistency.

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 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Department of Housing; CHFA; State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	Various - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 requires the Office of Workforce Strategy to develop an initiative with other state agencies to address the state's health care workforce shortage. This section also requires the Chief Workforce Officer to report on the initiative to various legislative committees by January 1, 2024. There is no fiscal impact associated with developing and reporting on an initiative as the Office of Workforce Strategy has sufficient expertise to do so.

Section 2 requires the Commissioner of Housing and the executive director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to seek a partnership with one or more hospitals located in the state to increase workforce housing options, which is anticipated to result in a state cost. It is unclear whether the Department of Housing (DOH) or CHFA, from its own resources as a quasi-public state agency, would incur costs for staffing the initiative. To the extent DOH must hire a new program manager and/or legal services personnel to seek such partnerships,

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.

General Fund costs for salaries and fringe benefits would be anticipated beginning in FY 23.

The bill does not specify how a partnership would increase housing options so it is unclear how much state funding would be required, what form that funding may take, and what continued staffing would be required once one or more hospitals agree to create a partnership.

Section 3 requires the Chief Workforce Officer to develop a plan with members of the Connecticut Hospital Association and nursing organizations to encourage high school students to pursue health care careers. The Chief Workforce Officer must submit the plan to a legislative committee by January 1, 2023. There is no fiscal impact associated with developing and reporting on a plan as the Chief Workforce Officer has sufficient expertise to do so.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.



OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 251

AN ACT EXPANDING TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR CAREERS IN HEALTH CARE.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/17/2022)