



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 251

February Session, 2022



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.*