



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 479

LCO No. 4005



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:
(FIN)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE TRAINING PROGRAM.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Training program" means a commercial driver's license
3 education and training program that (A) is offered by an organization
4 that is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
5 of 1986, or any subsequent internal revenue code of the United States,
6 as amended from time to time, (B) focuses on career workforce training
7 for a commercial driver's license and provides enrollees with hands-on
8 training and assistance with placement in permanent jobs as commercial
9 truck drivers, and (C) offers enrollees the use of an income share
10 agreement to finance such training program; and
- 11 (2) "Income share agreement" means a contract between an enrollee
12 and an organization offering a training program under which the
13 enrollee agrees to pay a percentage of such enrollee's future earnings for
14 a fixed period in exchange for funds to pay for such training program.

15 (b) (1) There is established a program to provide tuition expense
16 support to individuals seeking to obtain a commercial driver's license
17 for the purposes of establishing a career as a commercial truck driver.
18 The Office of Policy and Management shall administer the program and
19 shall establish criteria for selecting the organizations that will provide
20 training programs under such program, the amounts of funds that may
21 be provided to enrollees who have entered into an income share
22 agreement, the maximum amount of interest that an enrollee may be
23 charged, if any, under such agreement and any other requirements of
24 the program the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
25 deems necessary. Such training programs shall be offered at three
26 locations around the state, as determined by the secretary, provided
27 each location shall be located within a different distressed municipality,
28 as defined in section 32-9p of the general statutes.

29 (2) Any organization that is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of said
30 Internal Revenue Code may apply to the Office of Policy and
31 Management, in such form and manner as the secretary prescribes, to
32 participate in the program. A participating organization shall offer the
33 option of entering into an income share agreement to individuals
34 seeking to enroll in a training program. Priority shall be given to
35 individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, disadvantaged,
36 were formerly incarcerated or are veterans, as defined in section 27-103
37 of the general statutes, provided such individuals are not subject to
38 disqualification, as defined in section 14-1 of the general statutes, or
39 subject to suspension, revocation or cancellation of operating privileges
40 in any state or the District of Columbia. Any such organization selected
41 to participate in the program may enter into an agreement with a vendor
42 to administer such income share agreements.

43 (c) There is established an account to be known as the "commercial
44 driver's license training account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
45 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys
46 required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account
47 shall be expended by the Office of Policy and Management for the
48 program established under this section.

49 (d) (1) For the purposes described in subdivision (2) of this
50 subsection, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time
51 to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more
52 series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate six
53 million five hundred thousand dollars.

54 (2) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
55 stated in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be deposited in the
56 commercial driver's license training account and used by the Office of
57 Policy and Management for the purpose of funding initial start-up costs
58 of the program established under this program, provided one million
59 five hundred thousand dollars shall be used for necessary equipment,
60 trucks, trailers, garages and other capital expenditures for each of the
61 training program locations.

62 (3) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
63 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
64 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
65 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
66 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
67 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
68 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
69 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
70 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
71 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
72 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
73 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
74 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
75 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
76 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
77 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
78 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
79 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
80 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
81 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
82 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such

83 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
84 such principal and interest as the same become due.

85 (e) On or before July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of
86 the Office of Policy and Management shall submit a report, in
87 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
88 to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General
89 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation,
90 labor, commerce and finance, revenue and bonding. Such report shall
91 include, but not be limited to, a progress report on the operations of the
92 program established under this section, the number of individuals who
93 have enrolled in the program in the preceding fiscal year, the number of
94 enrollees who have completed the program in the preceding fiscal year
95 and the number of enrollees who have obtained a permanent job as a
96 commercial truck driver in the preceding fiscal year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2022	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a training program to assist individuals seeking to obtain a commercial driver's license for the purpose of establishing a career as a commercial truck driver.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]