
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6354 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN JOBS CORPS PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Connecticut Clean Economy Council (CCEC) to develop a workforce training plan for green jobs (i.e., jobs that employ green technology) to accomplish the state's greenhouse gas emissions goals (see BACKGROUND). The plan must include:

1. development of work-based learning programs for green jobs with workforce shortages;
2. development of certificate and degree programs related to the green technology industry at technical education and career schools and in-state higher education institutions;
3. identification of available public or private funding to develop these programs and award grants to apprentices and students; and
4. a strategy to market and recruit individuals, especially from underrepresented populations, to existing and newly developed green jobs work-based learning programs and certificate and degree programs related to the green technology industry at job centers, technical education and career schools, and higher education institutions.

The council must develop the plan by January 1, 2024, and submit it to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by February 1, 2024. Beginning by January 1, 2025, the council must update the plan as necessary, with plan updates submitted to the committee by each February 1.

Current law requires the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS), in consultation with the Office of Higher Education, State Department of Education, Department of Labor, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, regional workforce development boards, and employers, to establish a career ladder for jobs in the green technology industry by January 1, 2020, and then update it as needed. The bill shifts responsibility for establishing and updating the green jobs career ladder from OWS to the CCEC.

*House Amendment "A" shifts responsibility for (1) establishing and updating the green jobs career ladder from OWS to the CCEC and (2) developing a green jobs workforce training plan from the chief workforce officer and other specified officials to the CCEC.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Clean Economy Council

The governor established the CCEC through Executive Order 21-3. The council must advise on strategies and policies to strengthen climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs with the goal of lowering emissions and advancing the state of economic and environmental justice for Connecticut residents.

Among other things, the CCEC must ensure the state's workforce is trained to deliver climate and sustainability solutions and support equitable and diverse participation in climate and sustainability economic development opportunities from both diverse employers and diverse job seekers. The CCEC is expected to meet quarterly at a minimum and report annually on its work.

Global Warming Solutions Act

The Global Warming Solutions Act requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources to a level at least (1) 10% below 1990 emission levels by January 1, 2020; (2) 45% below 2001 emission levels by January 1, 2030; and (3) 80% below 2001 emission levels by January 1, 2050. The state must also reduce greenhouse gas

emissions from electricity supplied to electric customers in the state to zero percent by January 1, 2040 (CGS § 22a-200a).

Green Technology

By law, green technology is technology that (1) promotes clean energy, renewable energy, or energy efficiency; (2) reduces greenhouse gases or carbon emissions; or (3) involves the invention, design, and application of chemical products and processes to eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances (CGS § 10a-55d).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/07/2023)