

# Labor and Public Employees Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-151

**Title:** AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FULL EMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND.

**Vote Date:** 3/16/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/23/2023

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor and Public Employees Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would require the Labor Commissioner to conduct a study on the feasibility and merit of establishing a full employment trust fund. The purpose of such a trust fund would be to create more employment opportunities for Connecticut's workforce and develop job training programs for disadvantaged youth.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Dante Bartolomeo, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Labor:** Comments that the bill would cause the CT DOL to incur a fiscal impact to administer an employment trust fund. Also comments that there are currently programs, both state and federal, to assist disadvantaged youth in seeking employment.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Gertrude Goldberg, Chair, National Jobs for All Network:** Supports this bill because it would help to create jobs for unemployed Connecticut residents. Comments that both the formerly unemployed individuals and the state of Connecticut would benefit from the goods and services produced as a result of this legislation.

**Charles Bell, Vice Chair, National Jobs for All Network:** Supports this bill because it addresses a need to provide human services, community development, and infrastructure. Comments that this bill would improve conditions for the workforce and benefit all Connecticut workers and communities.

**Kathleen Callahan, Co-Chair, NASW & CT ELAN:** Supports this bill because learning skills and finding employment are both important aspects of an individual's economic and social mobility. Comments that this bill would help create the workforce needed in Connecticut today and raise wages throughout the state, as well as increasing diversity in the workforce.

**Josh O'Connor, Professor, CSU-AAUP:** Supports this bill because full employment is a key factor in ensuring that workers are benefited by economic and productivity growth. Comments that it is an important step in improving both the national and state economies.

**Kimberly Hart, Jobs for All Task Force:** Supports this bill because it will help those who have been struggling with inflation, decline in wage values, and unemployment. Comments that it is important to create recession-proof jobs in sustainable industries.

**William Knoegel, SWAA CT:** Supports this bill because it will create a better partnership between the public and private sector to create jobs. Comments that there needs to be emphasis on job in green energy industries and sustainable industries in general.

**Paula Panzarella:** Supports this bill because the way things are now, many young people are discouraged from joining the workforce if their options are mainly low paying, dead-end jobs. Believes that this bill would create more than jobs as these new jobs can be focused on manufacturing in industries that are most important to Connecticut residents.

**Jennifer Perez:** Supports this bill because it will create job opportunities and training that would lower unemployment rates in Connecticut. Comments that this increase in employment opportunities will make it more affordable to live in the state.

**Sarianna Sabbarese:** Supports this bill because its goals are important to furthering socioeconomic justice. Comments that all are made richer by policy that creates more equitable conditions.

**Chris Senecal, Senior Public Policy Officer, Hartford Foundation:** Supports this bill because it would allow fund to support workforce housing and employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth. Comments that it is important that all residents can participate in the workforce and enjoy economic stability.

**Stephen Monroe Tomczak, Board Member, NJAN-SWAA CT:** Supports this bill because it will help address both the individual and societal problems caused by unemployment. Comments that a reduction in inequality will also improve health and educational performance, and that more people in the workforce will produce more goods and services that can benefit all residents.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

No sources of opposition were provided.

**Reported by: Gabriel Marques, Assistant Clerk      Date: 3/20/23**