

# Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1089

AN ACT CONCERNING A WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EXPERIENTIAL  
**Title:** LEARNING PROGRAM.

**Vote Date:** 3/14/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/2/2023

**File No.:** 294

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Commerce Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Due to the rise of new technologies, careers in mechatronics, cybersecurity, three-dimensional printing, the Internet of things and chartered global management accounting have employment openings that have gone unfilled or have been outsourced to residents of other states. These jobs having gone unfilled or outsourced, has compounded the state's workforce shortage.

## **Substitute Language: LCO 5966**

Changed title from "AN ACT CONCERNING A WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM" to "AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES."

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Dante Bartolomeo, Commissioner, CT Department of Labor**

Mr. Bartolomeo opposes this bill. He states there are several items in SB-1089 not within the scope of registered apprenticeships. Bartolomeo claims, as the bill is currently written, the planned pathways for apprentices will not qualify them for the same industry recognized portable credentials that CTDOL's Office of Apprenticeship Training provides, nor necessarily make them eligible to take occupational licensing exams.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Garrett Sheehan, President and CEO, Greater New Haven & Quinnipiac Chambers of Commerce**

Mr. Sheehan supports this bill. He believes apprenticeship programs are vital in creating talent pipelines which increase workforce recruitment.

**Bonnie Stewart, Executive Director & CEO, Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants**

Ms. Stewart supports this bill. Ms. Stewart believes state apprenticeship programs offer many benefits and investments in the training and education of the state's workforce will pay dividends in the future. Additionally, she expressed her support for the creation of a Connecticut Finance Apprenticeship Program.

**Ashley Zane, Public Policy Associate, CBIA**

Ms. Zane supports this bill. Ms. Zane believes apprenticeship programs are critical in creating and developing a well-trained workforce. The CBIA strongly supports examining how the state can strengthen and expand its workforce in the fields of mechatronics, cybersecurity, three-dimensional printing, Internet of things, and chartered global management accounting.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Chief Workforce Officer, Office of Workforce Strategy**

Ms. Vallieres opposes this bill. She states OWS is unable to meet five of the provisions for the bill such as the requirement to develop an application for prospective enrollees in the apprenticeship program developed pursuant to this section, partner with regional workforce development boards and institutions of higher education to offer apprenticeship programs, and to partner with associated training providers to track and report performance outcomes of participants in the apprenticeship program. Additionally, there are two areas of the bill where OWS is already performing what is directed. According to Ms. Vallieres, OWS is already consulting with related businesses on an ongoing basis to assess the hiring needs of such businesses and developing a series of career pathways to ensure that workers can vertically advance their careers.

**Reported by: Colin DeCure**

**Date: 3/30/2023**