



PA 23-61—sHB 6354

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN JOBS CORPS PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act requires the Connecticut Clean Economy Council (CCEC, see BACKGROUND) to develop a workforce training plan for green jobs (i.e., jobs that employ green technology) to accomplish the state’s greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. 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 colleges and universities;
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 green jobs and recruit individuals, especially from underrepresented populations, to existing and newly developed green job-related programs and certificates.

Under the act, the council must (1) develop the plan by January 1, 2024; (2) submit the plan to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by February 1, 2024; and (3) update and resubmit the plan by February 1 each year.

Prior law required the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS), in consultation with the Office of Higher Education, State Department of Education, Department of Labor, 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 act shifts responsibility regarding the green jobs career ladder from OWS 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 as well as support equitable and diverse participation in climate and sustainability economic development opportunities.

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

The CCEC is expected to meet at least quarterly and report annually on its work.

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).