

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-302

AN ACT EXPANDING THE TAX CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP  
TRAINING PROGRAMS AND ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR

**Title:** CHILDREN INTERESTED IN TRADES.

**Vote Date:** 3/14/2024

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and

**Vote Action:** Bonding

**PH Date:** 3/5/2024

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill would expose the youth to the trades at a younger age so they know that it is an option for them in the future as well as provide a tax credit for apprenticeship programs across the state that would incentivize employers to bring on apprentices.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:**

Removes the Department of Labor's involvement, making the State Department of Education (SDE) the sole agency responsible for establishing the program. It also raises the grade level of participating students from grades 4-6 to encompass only middle school students. Additionally required that the program must align with a 10-20a career pathways program.

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

[Dante Bartolemeo, Commissioner, Department of Labor](#): Opposes this bill stating that the primary concern of the Department of Labor in Section 1 is that this bill proposal "has the potential of drastically increasing the staff time necessary to implement the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit program" however does not include "any additional funding." Mr. Bartolemeo goes on to state that the Department of Labor has "many concerns" with Section 2 of this proposal. Mr. Bartolemeo stated that the Department of Labor doesn't have "experience creating trades education programs." Mr. Bartolemeo also stated that the Department of Labor has concerns about "placing young students in hazardous working

conditions" as well as that "Section 2 also lacks funding for this new undertaking that would require additional staff to implement." He would conclude by saying that "a start date of June 2024 would not allow enough time to complete the steps that would be necessary to stand this program up."

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

[Tim Ackert, State Representative, Connecticut General Assembly](#): Supports this bill stating that it brings "additional awareness and interest to our youth to become involved in out trades" and other opportunities in apprenticeship programs. Representative Ackert also stated his desire to raise the tax credit of \$4000 to \$7,500.

[Paul Amarone, Advocacy Outreach Manager, Connecticut Business and Industry Association](#): Supports this bill stating that it "will encourage more manufacturing and construction companies to hire apprentices."

[Jim Perras, CEO, Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Connecticut](#): Supports this bill; however, he proposed changes. Mr. Perras would state that the "HBRA encourages the Higher Education Committee to amend this bill to provide the same \$7500 tax credit benefit to all other apprenticeship opportunities." That amendment would mirror the tax credit for the manufacturers apprenticeship that Governor Lamont signed into law in 2022. Mr. Perras would go on to state that the "HBRA strongly encourages the committee to amend this bill to allow similar access to non-manufacturing businesses seeking to take advantage of the credit." Mr. Perras would conclude by stating that the "HBRA of CT also supports Section 2 of this bill."

[Don Shubert, President, Connecticut Construction Industries Association](#): Supports this bill stating that it "will encourage more construction employers to hire more apprentices." Mr. Shubert would go on to echo the desire of Mr. Perras of the HBRA and Representative Tim Ackert to increase the tax credit to \$7,500.

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

None Expressed

**Reported by: Chris Peritore**

**Date: 4/1/2024**