House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 549

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 5704

House of Representatives, April 7, 2025

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. SANCHEZ, E. of the 24th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CREATING A CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to study and make recommendations concerning developing a construction workforce pipeline program to train students and workers for job placement with employers in the skilled trades. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) Expanding skilled trades preapprenticeship programs in public secondary schools;

(2) Increasing awareness of career opportunities in the skilled trades;

(3) Removing barriers to increasing apprenticeship programs;

(4) The expansion of financial incentives, including tax credits, for employers that offer apprenticeship programs;

(5) Current standards for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs compared to existing public secondary school curriculums in order to identify gaps between such programs and curriculums;

(6) Pathways to higher education and career advancement in such skilled trades, including, but not limited to, credential stacking of preapprenticeship programs, apprenticeship programs, associate degrees and bachelor's degrees in construction management; and

(7) Proposed legislation and its impacts on the construction workforce pipeline.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one who is a representative of a state-wide residential construction trade association and one who is a representative of a state-wide trade association that represents electricians;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one who is a representative of a state-wide trade association that represents heating, ventilation and air conditioning technicians and one who is a representative of a state-wide trade association that represents plumbers;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who is a representative of a state-wide business association that represents large businesses;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who is a principal of public secondary school that incorporates a residential construction preapprenticeship program in the curriculum for grades nine to twelve;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who is a representative of a state-wide business association that represents small businesses;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who is a superintendent of a local or regional board of education that incorporates a residential construction preapprenticeship program in the curriculum for grades nine to twelve;

(7) The chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the chancellor's designee; and

(8) The executive director of the Technical Education and Career System, or the executive director's designee.

(c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the working group from among the members of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The working group shall meet quarterly and at such other times as the chairpersons deem necessary.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(g) Not later than December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on December 31,

2030.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	New section

LAB *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill has no fiscal impact by establishing a working group to study and make recommendations on developing a construction workforce pipeline program. It is anticipated that the members of the working group will have the expertise necessary or consult with any experts needed, including the Connecticut Department of Labor and Office of Workforce Strategy, to complete the research that is required by the bill.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5704

AN ACT CREATING A CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a working group to study and make recommendations on developing a construction workforce pipeline program to train both students and workers for job placement with employers in the skilled trades.

The bill requires that the study examine:

1. expanding skilled trades pre-apprenticeship programs in public secondary schools;
2. increasing awareness about career opportunities in the skilled trades;
3. removing barriers to increasing apprenticeship programs;
4. expanding financial incentives, such as tax credits, for employers that offer apprenticeship programs;
5. current standards for apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs compared to existing public secondary school curriculums to identify gaps between them;
6. pathways to higher education and career advancement in the skilled trades, such as credential stacking of pre-apprenticeship programs, apprenticeship programs, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees in construction management; and
7. proposed legislation and its impacts on the construction workforce pipeline.

The bill requires the working group to annually report its findings to the Labor and Public Employees Committee starting December 31, 2025. The working group ends on December 31, 2030.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

Members

The bill requires the working group to have the following members:

1. two appointed by the House speaker (one who represents a state-wide residential construction trade association and one who represents a state-wide trade association of electricians);

2. two appointed by the Senate president pro tempore (one who represents a state-wide heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technicians trade association and one who represents a state-wide trade association of plumbers);

3. one appointed by the House majority leader, who represents a state-wide business association of large businesses;

4. one appointed by the Senate majority leader, who is a principal of a public secondary school that incorporates a residential construction pre-apprenticeship program in the curriculum for grades 9-12;

5. one appointed by the House minority leader, who represents a state-wide business association of small businesses;

6. one appointed by the Senate minority leader, who is a superintendent of a local or regional board of education that incorporates a residential construction pre-apprenticeship program in the curriculum for grades 9-12;

7. the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the chancellor's designee; and

8. the executive director of the Technical Education and Career System, or the executive director's designee.

All appointed members may be legislators.

Under the bill, all initial appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill becomes effective. Any vacancies must be filled by the appointing authority.

Leadership and Meetings

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the commission's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the commission's first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage. Under the bill, the working group must meet quarterly and at other times as the chairpersons deem necessary.

The bill requires the Labor and Public Employees Committee's administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the commission.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/20/2025)