General Assembly

# *Committee Bill No. 5704*

***January Session, 2025***

LCO No. **6679**

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:
(LAB)

## *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*