



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 649**

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 389

*Senate, April 15, 2026*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. OSTEN of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 31-3mm of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) The Labor Department, within available appropriations, shall  
4 establish a program to distribute youth employment and training funds  
5 to regional workforce development boards for services to persons ages  
6 fourteen to twenty-four.

7 (b) Funds provided for in this section shall be allocated [as follows:  
8 (1) Thirty-two and five-tenths per cent to Capitol Workforce Partners;  
9 (2) twenty-two and five-tenths per cent to The Workforce Alliance; (3)  
10 twelve and five-tenths per cent to The Workplace, Inc.; (4) twenty-two  
11 and five-tenths per cent to the Northwest Regional Workforce  
12 Investment Board, Inc.; and (5) ten per cent to the Eastern Connecticut  
13 Workforce Investment Board] to the regional workforce development

14 boards by the Labor Commissioner based on a formula established by  
 15 the Labor Commissioner, in collaboration with the regional workforce  
 16 development boards, that utilizes available data, including, but not  
 17 limited to, (1) the number of students in each workforce development  
 18 region that are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, (2) the number  
 19 of economically disadvantaged youth in each workforce development  
 20 region determined by the most recent American Community Survey  
 21 conducted by United States Census Bureau, and (3) the number of at-  
 22 risk students, as defined in section 21 of public act 24-45, in each  
 23 workforce development region.

24 (c) The Labor Commissioner, in collaboration with the regional  
 25 workforce development boards, may update the formula established  
 26 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section in order to reflect current  
 27 conditions in the workforce development regions.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	31-3mm

**APP**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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*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.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill modifies the allocation formula for the CT Youth Employment Program from a currently established fixed percentage for each of the five Workforce Development Boards to a formula established by the Labor Commissioner. This new formula includes the number of (1) students that are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, (2) economically disadvantaged youth, and (3) at-risk students<sup>1</sup>. The General Fund supports this program annually<sup>2</sup> through the Department of Labor. This change does not result in any fiscal impact to the state.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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<sup>1</sup> "At-risk student" means a student who is enrolled in high school and is in danger of not graduating.

<sup>2</sup> PA 25-168, the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget, appropriates \$10.3 million for this program in FY 27.

**OFA Bill Analysis**

**sSB 389**

***AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDS.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill changes the methodology the Department of Labor uses to distribute Connecticut Youth Employment Program funds to the state’s five regional workforce development boards (WDBs), and it clarifies the program services persons aged fourteen to twenty-four.

Current law dictates fixed statutory percentages for each board. The bill replaces these fixed allocations with a formula established by the Labor Commissioner, in collaboration with the regional WDBs, utilizing data that includes (1) the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, (2) the number of economically disadvantaged youth, and (3) the number of at-risk students (not enrolled in high school and in danger of not graduating.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 51    Nay 0    Absent 0