



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 383

LCO No. 2018



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE
OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY RELATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-124xx of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 [(a) The Chief Workforce Officer, appointed pursuant to section 4-
4 124w, in consultation with the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioners
5 of Social Services, Developmental Disabilities, Public Health, Higher
6 Education and Aging and Disability Services, the Governor's Workforce
7 Council, the Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Autism
8 Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council and regional workforce
9 development boards, shall establish a Human Services Career Pipeline
10 program to ensure a sufficient number of trained providers are available
11 to serve the needs of persons in the state with an intellectual disability,
12 other developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, cognitive
13 impairment or mental illness and elderly persons. Such pipeline shall
14 include training and certification for cardiopulmonary resuscitation,

15 first aid, medication administration, job placement and incentives for
16 retention in the human services labor sector upon successful completion
17 of the program.]

18 [(b)] (a) The Chief Workforce Officer, appointed pursuant to section
19 4-124w, shall consult with the Labor Commissioner and the
20 Commissioners of Aging and Disability Services, Developmental
21 Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health and
22 Social Services, the Council on Developmental Disabilities and the
23 Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council to determine: (1) The
24 greatest needs for human services providers to serve the needs of
25 persons in the state with an intellectual disability, a developmental
26 disability, a physical disability, a cognitive impairment or a behavioral
27 health disorder and elderly persons in the state, and (2) barriers to hiring
28 and retaining qualified providers. The Chief Workforce Officer shall
29 assist local and regional boards of education in enhancing existing
30 partnerships or establishing new partnerships with providers of human
31 services and higher education institutions to provide a pathway to a
32 diploma, credential, certificate or license and a job providing human
33 services.

34 [(c)] (b) The Chief Workforce Officer, in consultation with the Labor
35 Commissioner, shall develop a plan for the Human Services Career
36 Pipeline program that includes, but shall not be limited to: (1) A strategy
37 to increase the number of state residents pursuing careers in human
38 services, (2) recommended salary and working conditions necessary to
39 retain an adequate number of human services providers to serve state
40 residents, and (3) estimated funding needed to support the Human
41 Services Career Pipeline program. Not later than July 1, [2024] 2026, the
42 Chief Workforce Officer shall submit a report on the plan, in accordance
43 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
44 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
45 appropriations, aging, higher education and employment advancement,
46 human services, labor and public health. The report shall include the
47 Chief Workforce Officer's recommendations for establishing the career

48 pipeline and estimates of funding needed to implement the pipeline.

49 [(d) The Chief Workforce Officer shall, within available
50 appropriations, establish such career pipeline and, if such pipeline is
51 established, submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
52 section 11-4a, not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter,
53 regarding the development and implementation of the pipeline to the
54 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
55 of matters relating to appropriations, aging, higher education and
56 employment advancement, human services, labor and public health. For
57 purposes of this section, "human services labor sector" means persons
58 trained to provide services to persons with an intellectual disability;
59 other developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism
60 spectrum disorder; physical disabilities; cognitive impairment or mental
61 illness; and elderly persons.]

62 Sec. 2. Section 4-124mm of the general statutes is repealed and the
63 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

64 (a) There is established an account known as the Connecticut Career
65 Accelerator Program Account that is within the Office of Workforce
66 Strategy for the purpose of supporting commercial driver's license
67 training and training for careers identified by the Office of Workforce
68 Strategy, pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,
69 within the CareerConneCT workforce training program. The account
70 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited therein and
71 such moneys shall be held in such account. The account may accept
72 gifts, grants or donations from public or private sources. Any balance
73 remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried
74 forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The account
75 may be used for the purposes of the program described in subsection (b)
76 of this section.

77 (b) (1) Not later than July 1, 2024, the Office of Workforce Strategy
78 shall design a program to support individuals pursuing training to

79 obtain a commercial driver's license, including through the use of
80 income share agreements or equivalent financial instruments. The
81 Office of Workforce Strategy may competitively procure a consultant to
82 support the design and implementation of the program. The program
83 shall be implemented not later than January 1, [2025] 2027.

84 (2) Not later than July 1, 2025, the Office of Workforce Strategy shall
85 identify (A) additional training opportunities [, for careers requiring not
86 more than one year of training,] to expand the program designed
87 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (B) training providers
88 to use for such additional training opportunities. Such additional
89 training opportunities may be added to or removed from such program,
90 subject to the approval of the Chief Workforce Officer.

91 (c) The design of the program under subsection (b) of this section
92 shall take into consideration: (1) Developing metrics for identifying
93 qualified training providers, (2) developing incentive-based payments
94 for training providers, such as paying a trainer eighty per cent of a
95 student's tuition prior to providing any training and paying the trainer
96 the remaining tuition upon placement of the student in a job, and (3)
97 developing a method for targeting potential students for the program.
98 The program shall include terms and conditions for the payment
99 obligations undertaken by individuals who obtain tuition assistance
100 from the account. The program shall require an individual who receives
101 a direct tuition payment from the account to repay such payment if such
102 individual is placed in a job after receiving training through the
103 program that provides the individual with a higher income than such
104 individual received prior to participating in such training. No interest
105 shall be charged on any tuition repayment obligation. The program shall
106 also consider offering wrap-around supports, such as stipends, child
107 care services, counseling and other supports identified by the Office of
108 Workforce Strategy. An individual who receives such supports shall not
109 be required to repay the account for such supports.

110 (d) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall develop a marketing plan

111 to attract individuals who fit the eligibility criteria for participation in
112 the program, specifically targeted at recruiting individuals who are
113 underserved, disadvantaged, unemployed, underemployed, dislocated
114 workers, receiving temporary assistance for needy families,
115 supplemental nutrition assistance program or any other public
116 assistance benefits, formerly incarcerated or veterans of the armed
117 services. The marketing plan shall include outreach to various state
118 agencies, the regional workforce investment boards, transit authorities,
119 housing authorities, the Office of Early Childhood and other partners as
120 identified by the Office of Workforce Strategy.

121 [(e) (1) Not later than July 1, 2025, the Office of Workforce Strategy
122 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,
123 on the design and implementation of the commercial driver's license
124 training program established under this section to the joint standing
125 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
126 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, commerce,
127 education, finance, revenue and bonding, higher education and
128 employment advancement and labor and public employees.

129 (2) Not later than July 1, 2026, the Office of Workforce Strategy shall
130 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,
131 regarding the identification of additional training opportunities and
132 training providers pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
133 section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
134 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state
135 agencies, commerce, education, finance, revenue and bonding, higher
136 education and employment advancement, and labor and public
137 employees.]

138 [(f)] (e) Not later than [July 1, 2026] October 1, 2027, and annually
139 thereafter, the Office of Workforce Strategy shall [submit a report, in
140 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the commercial
141 driver's license training program established under this section to the
142 Governor and to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly

143 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets
144 of state agencies, commerce, education, finance, revenue and bonding,
145 higher education and employment advancement and labor and public
146 employees] include, as part of the annual report required pursuant to
147 subsection (f) of section 4-124w, a report on the program for training
148 opportunities established pursuant to this section. Such report may
149 include information on the (1) program completion and job placement
150 rate of individuals participating in the program; (2) starting wages,
151 wage gains and wage growth of individuals employed after
152 participating in the program; (3) funds used as payment obligations,
153 grants and wraparound services for individuals participating in the
154 program; (4) percentage of program participants in compliance with
155 repayment obligations; and (5) total repayments received.

156 Sec. 3. Section 10-265s of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective July*
157 *1, 2026*)

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 4-124xx |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | 4-124mm |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | Repealer section |

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Office of Workforce Strategy.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]