



# 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:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
- 2 working group to study and make recommendations concerning
- 3 developing a construction workforce pipeline program to train students
- 4 and workers for job placement with employers in the skilled trades.
- 5 Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of:
- 6 (1) Expanding skilled trades preapprenticeship programs in public
- 7 secondary schools;
- 8 (2) Increasing awareness of career opportunities in the skilled trades;
- 9 (3) Removing barriers to increasing apprenticeship programs;
- 10 (4) The expansion of financial incentives, including tax credits, for
- 11 employers that offer apprenticeship programs;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

49 (c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision  
50 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
51 of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

72 2030.

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

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### **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)