



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 247

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7094

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXPAND PAID WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

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

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Workforce Strategy
- 2 shall convene a working group to develop a plan and recommend
- 3 legislation for the establishment of a grant program to increase paid
- 4 internships and work-based learning opportunities for students in
- 5 postsecondary education programs. The Chief Workforce Officer shall,
- 6 to the extent possible, appoint to the working group individuals from
- 7 various regions of the state representing the following: (1) Employers
- 8 from various industries, (2) chambers of commerce, (3) Connecticut
- 9 State Community College, (4) the Connecticut State University System,
- 10 (5) The University of Connecticut, (6) one or more independent
- 11 institutions of higher education, as defined in section 10a-173 of the
- 12 general statutes, (7) nonprofit organizations that promote or facilitate
- 13 work-based learning opportunities in the state, (8) one or more regional

14 workforce development boards, and (9) any other entity or group
15 deemed necessary by the Chief Workforce Officer.

16 (b) The plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall
17 include, but need not be limited to, (1) an examination of the existing
18 paid work-based learning opportunities in the state through an
19 evaluation of programs offered by employers and institutions of higher
20 education, informational sessions held in each region of the state and
21 the solicitation of feedback from former and current participants of such
22 work-based learning opportunities, (2) an assessment and prioritization
23 of the need for additional paid work-based learning opportunities by
24 industry and region of the state, (3) development of a model for paid
25 work-based learning opportunities that specifies the role and
26 responsibilities of the employer providing such opportunity and the
27 student participating in such opportunity, (4) identification of means to
28 facilitate and support employers and institutions of higher education in
29 establishing new or improving existing work-based learning
30 opportunities, (5) recommendations for the administration of a grant
31 program, including, but not limited to, the (A) process by which grants
32 will be awarded to employers, (B) eligibility requirements for students
33 to participate in work-based learning opportunities funded through
34 such grants, (C) grant amount that should be awarded under such grant
35 program, and (D) amount of funding required for such grant program,
36 and (6) any recommendations for legislation necessary to implement
37 such plan.

38 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Office of Workforce Strategy
39 shall submit the plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
40 section to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
41 cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment
42 advancement, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
43 general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it
44 submits such plan or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

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

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
OWS	GF - Cost	200,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a one-time cost of \$200,000 in FY 26 by requiring the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) to convene a working group that will develop a plan to establish a work-based learning (WBL) opportunities grant program and submit the plan to the committee of cognizance by January 1, 2026.

The bill requires the plan to include (1) an evaluation of WBL programs currently offered by employers and higher education institutions and (2) an assessment and prioritization of WBL needs by industry and region of the state. OWS will require consulting services at an estimated cost of \$200,000 in order to complete the analyses necessary for these components of the plan by the deadline of January 1. The other components of the plan can be completed within existing resources.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact is one-time only in FY 26 and therefore does not continue into the outyears.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7094

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXPAND PAID WORK-BASED
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.***

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)