

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1260

AN ACT EXPANDING MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE TRAINING

Title: OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN.

Vote Date: 2/27/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/11/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Career Advancement Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Raised Bill SB-1260 would address the gap in employment faced by women when it comes to education and further employment in our state's manufacturing industry. It addresses also the financial burden faced by the state when it comes to the large demand for manufacturing professionals in our state and would therefore create a talent pipeline which would connect, in this case, talented and capable women into jobs after they graduate, creating a virtuous circle whereby employer, employee, and state benefit economically from this legislation.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[CSCU, Chancellor, Terrance Cheng](#): Supports this bill because it supports the manufacturing industry. But they request that all financial considerations be previously seen to before setting any new requirements.

[Office of Workforce Strategy, Chief Workforce Officer, Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres](#): Supports this bill because it would create a major talent pipeline for women in the manufacturing industry, to be augmented by various existing initiatives. Such entities, such as the Connecticut Career Accelerator program, the usage of Career ConneCT, and supportive services offered at Connecticut State Community Colleges would augment and strengthen the state economically. In addition, they entreat members of the committee that they are willing and eager to collaborate but maintain that one must be aware of the impacts of required funding and resources within this legislation, as it pertains to the student residents of our state and their families.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Anonymous, Anonymous](#): Supports this bill because it would assist in closing the pay gap experienced by women compared to male pay. And with this legislation and expansion of women in the manufacturing workforce, it would, they theorize, rapidly reduce the 15-cent gap between men and women of the same qualifications in the workforce much swifter.

[4 C's SEIU 1973, President, Seth Freeman](#): Supports this bill because it would support the enfranchisement of women, whom, he posits, are statistically underrepresented in the state's manufacturing industry. He says that it would assist in the combatting of barriers to entry faced by women in this sector, as well as improving the workforce development initiatives enacted within our state to give people, no matter what, an ability to be trained and work within the state.

[Michelle Noehren](#): Supports this bill because it would mandate the prioritization of the inclusion of women into our state's manufacturing workforce via mandating that as they complete their training, they also be notified of job availability and financial coaching. In addition, this legislation, insomuch as creating an incentive for an inclusive workplace environment, would increase productivity and performance benefiting from the increased use of talent allotted by increased inclusion of women into the manufacturing workforce, therefore benefiting our state economically.

[CBIA, Public Policy Associate, Jenna Grasso](#): Supports this bill because it would address the estimated 75,000 job opening deficit in the state of Connecticut by empowering females to enter the manufacturing industry. According to the CBIA's 2022 reporting, "87% of manufacturers face challenges in both finding and retaining employees, with 44% identifying the shortage of skilled applicants as their greatest obstacle to growth." Hence, with the increase of female ability to work in the industry, and if the gender gap were closed, they posit that 100,000 jobs could be fulfilled by 2030. And the subsequent employment would greatly improve the state's economic future.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Tom Atwood

Date: 3/17/2025