



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7094

LCO No. 5529



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***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) the 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, and (7) any other entity or group deemed necessary by
13 the Chief Workforce Officer.

14 (b) The plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require the Office of Workforce Strategy to establish a working group to develop a plan for a grant program to increase the availability of and

student participation in paid internships and work-based learning opportunities.

[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.]