



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 7094**

January Session, 2025



**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.

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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**HED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*