



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7107

LCO No. 5517



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING A JANITORIAL WORK PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR DISADVANTAGE AND A TASK FORCE TO STUDY EXPANDING GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4a-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Person with a disability" means any individual with a disability,
5 excluding blindness, as such term is applied by the Department of
6 Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of
7 Developmental Services, the Department of Aging and Disability
8 Services or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and who
9 is certified by the Department of Aging and Disability Services as
10 qualified to participate in a qualified partnership, as described in
11 subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of this section;

12 (2) "Vocational rehabilitation service" means any goods and services

13 necessary to render a person with a disability employable, in accordance
14 with Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC 701 et seq., as
15 amended from time to time;

16 (3) "Community rehabilitation program" means any entity or
17 individual that provides directly for or facilitates the provision of
18 vocational rehabilitation services to, or provides services in connection
19 with, the recruiting, hiring or managing of the employment of persons
20 with disabilities based on an individualized plan and budget for each
21 worker with a disability;

22 (4) "Commercial contractor" means any for-profit proprietorship,
23 partnership, joint venture, corporation, limited liability company, trust,
24 association or other privately owned entity that employs persons to
25 perform janitorial work or contractual services, and that enters into
26 contracts to provide janitorial services or contractual services;

27 (5) "Janitorial work" means work performed in connection with the
28 care or maintenance of buildings, including, but not limited to, work
29 customarily performed by cleaners, porters, janitors and handypersons;

30 (6) "Janitorial contract" means a contract or subcontract to perform
31 janitorial work for a department or agency of the state;

32 (7) "Person with a disadvantage" means any individual who is
33 determined by the Labor Department, or its designee, to be eligible for
34 employment services in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and
35 Opportunity Act or whose verified individual gross annual income
36 during the previous calendar year was not greater than two hundred
37 per cent of the federal poverty level for a family of four;

38 (8) "Awarding authority" means the Commissioner of Administrative
39 Services, Chief Court Administrator of the Judicial Branch and
40 chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, as
41 applicable; and

42 (9) "Contractual services" includes, but is not limited to, any and all
43 laundry and cleaning services, mail supply room staffing, data entry,
44 telephone call center staffing and other services specified by the
45 Commissioner of Administrative Services under subsection (b) of this
46 section.

47 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall establish a
48 program to create and expand janitorial work job opportunities for
49 persons with a disability and persons with a disadvantage. The program
50 shall create full-time jobs or full-time equivalents at standard wage rates
51 for persons with disabilities and persons with disadvantages. The
52 Judicial Branch and Board of Regents for Higher Education may
53 participate in such program.

54 (2) The Commissioner of Administrative Services may expand such
55 program to include contractual services that the commissioner deems
56 appropriate and shall post a list of such services on the department's
57 Internet web site.

58 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes,
59 under such program, the awarding authority may award janitorial
60 contracts or contracts for contractual services pursuant to the following
61 procedures: (1) Upon receipt of a request for janitorial services or a
62 contractual service that the Commissioner of Administrative Services
63 has deemed appropriate for inclusion in the program by an agency or
64 department of the state, the awarding authority shall notify each
65 qualified partnership, as described in subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of
66 this section, of such request and invite each qualified partnership in
67 good standing to submit a bid proposal for such janitorial contract or
68 service contract to the awarding authority in a manner and form as
69 prescribed by the awarding authority; (2) in the event that only one such
70 qualified partnership submits a bid or proposal for such janitorial or
71 service contract, the awarding authority shall award such contract to
72 such qualified partnership, provided such bid or proposal does not
73 exceed the fair market value for such contract, as determined by the

74 awarding authority; (3) if more than one qualified partnership submits
75 a bid or proposal, the awarding authority shall award the contract to the
76 lowest responsible qualified bidder or most advantageous proposer, as
77 described in section 4a-59; and (4) in the event that a qualified
78 partnership does not submit a bid or proposal or is not awarded such
79 contract, the awarding authority shall award such contract in
80 accordance with the provisions of sections 4a-52a, 4a-59, 10a-151b and
81 17a-796, as amended by this act, or title 51, as applicable. No awarding
82 authority shall award a contract under the provisions of this subsection
83 at a site where employees are employed pursuant to an existing
84 collective bargaining agreement or where a contract has been awarded
85 pursuant to section 17a-796, as amended by this act, unless a contract
86 has been previously awarded to a qualified partnership pursuant to this
87 section at such site.

88 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
89 responsibilities of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, Chief
90 Court Administrator or chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and
91 Universities as established in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, may
92 not be delegated to an outside vendor.

93 (e) The [Connecticut Community Providers Association] CT
94 Community Nonprofit Alliance shall designate a commercial contractor
95 and a community rehabilitation program as a "qualified partnership"
96 whenever the following criteria have been established: (1) Such
97 commercial contractor has entered into a binding agreement with [such]
98 one or more community rehabilitation [program in which such
99 contractor agrees to fill not less than one-third of the jobs from a
100 successful bid] programs for the entire term of any contract award for a
101 janitorial or service contract under the program established in
102 subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section in which the contractor
103 agrees to fill not less than one-third of the jobs with persons with
104 disabilities and not less than one-third of such jobs with persons with a
105 disadvantage; (2) such contractor employs not less than two hundred
106 persons who perform janitorial work or contractual services in the state;

107 and (3) such contractor certifies, in writing, that it will pay the standard
108 wage to employees, including persons with disabilities, under such
109 janitorial or service contract. Any partnership between a commercial
110 contractor and a community rehabilitation program that has been
111 denied designation as a qualified partnership may appeal such denial,
112 in writing, to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and said
113 commissioner may, after review of such appeal, designate such program
114 as a qualified partnership.

115 (f) The requirement established in subsection (e) of this section to fill
116 not less than one-third of the jobs from a successful bid for a janitorial
117 or service contract with persons with disabilities and one-third with
118 persons with a disadvantage shall be met whenever such contractor
119 employs the requisite number of persons with disabilities and persons
120 with a disadvantage throughout the entirety of its operations in the state
121 provided any persons with disabilities employed by such contractor
122 prior to the commencement date of any such contract shall not be
123 counted for the purpose of determining the number of persons with
124 disabilities employed by such contractor.

125 (g) The number of persons with disabilities and the number of
126 persons with a disadvantage that such contractor is required to employ
127 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section shall be
128 employed not later than six months after the commencement of
129 janitorial work or the contractual service under the terms of any contract
130 awarded pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive,
131 of this section, provided such contractor shall fill any vacancy for
132 janitorial work or contractual service that arises during the first six
133 months of any such contract with persons with disabilities and persons
134 with disadvantages.

135 (h) The [Connecticut Community Providers Association] CT
136 Community Nonprofit Alliance shall develop an application process
137 and submit a list of employees who have applied to participate in a
138 partnership to the Department of Aging and Disability Services for

139 certification. Such association shall maintain a list of certified employees
140 who are persons with disabilities and community rehabilitation
141 programs.

142 (i) Any qualified partnership awarded a janitorial or service contract
143 pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this
144 section shall provide to the [Connecticut Community Providers
145 Association] CT Community Nonprofit Alliance, not later than six
146 months after the commencement date of such contract and annually
147 thereafter, a list of the persons with disabilities and persons with a
148 disadvantage employed by such contractor that includes the date of hire
149 and employment location for each such person. Such association shall
150 certify annually to the Department of Administrative Services, the
151 Judicial Branch or the Board of Regents for Higher Education, as
152 applicable, in such manner and form as prescribed by the Commissioner
153 of Administrative Services, Chief Court Administrator or the president
154 of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, that the requisite number
155 of persons with disabilities for such contract continue to be employed
156 by such contractor in positions equivalent to those created under such
157 contract and have been integrated into the general workforce of such
158 contractor.

159 (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
160 responsibilities of the Department of Aging and Disability Services, as
161 established in subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of this section, may not be
162 delegated to an outside vendor.

163 (k) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services may adopt
164 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
165 undertake the certification requirements established pursuant to
166 subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of this section.

167 (l) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of this section,
168 [the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall authorize certified
169 small and minority businesses to participate in such program] any

170 commercial contractor who is certified as a small or minority business
171 within the Department of Administrative Services' supplier diversity
172 program may participate in the program established under subsections
173 (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section. Small and minority businesses shall
174 meet the criteria provided in subsection (e) of this section except for
175 subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section, which shall be waived.

176 (m) The joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
177 cognizance of matters relating to government administration shall study
178 the effectiveness of such program, including, but not limited to, the
179 effectiveness of such program to create integrated work settings for
180 persons with disabilities. Additionally, said committee shall study ways
181 to provide incentives for municipalities and businesses to utilize such
182 program if such program is determined by the committee to be effective.

183 (n) Each exclusive contract awarded prior to October 1, 2013,
184 pursuant to section 17a-796, as amended by this act, shall remain in
185 effect until such time as either party terminates the contract in such
186 party's own best interest, with not less than sixty days written notice.
187 Each such contract may be amended to include updated terms and
188 conditions, but shall not allow for any price increases except statutory
189 or mandated increases to the minimum wage and standard wage. If
190 either party exercises his or her right to terminate any such contract, the
191 next contract solicitation may be awarded pursuant to this section or
192 sections 4a-59 and 17a-796, as amended by this act. Additionally, any
193 new janitorial contract awarded pursuant to section 17a-796, as
194 amended by this act, shall be limited to not more than four full-time
195 employees per contract.

196 (o) Any person employed under a janitorial contract let: (1) On or
197 before October 1, 2006, or thereafter if such contract constitutes a
198 successor contract to such janitorial contract let on or before October 1,
199 2006, and (2) pursuant to section 4a-57 or 10a-151b or by the judicial or
200 legislative departments or pursuant to subsections (b) to (d), inclusive,
201 of this section shall have the same rights conferred upon an employee

202 by section 31-57g for the duration of the program described in
203 subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section. The provisions of this
204 subsection shall not apply to any new janitorial contract with not more
205 than four full-time employees per contract, as described in subsection
206 (n) of this section.

207 (p) If a position is not available at a job site for a janitorial or service
208 contract awarded pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and a person
209 with a disability or a person with a disadvantage is placed at an alternate
210 job site in the operations of the contractor pursuant to subsection (f) of
211 this section, such person with a disability or person with a disadvantage
212 shall be paid the wage applicable at such alternate site, provided when
213 a position at the job site for a janitorial or service contract awarded
214 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section becomes available, such person
215 with a disability or person with a disadvantage shall be transferred to
216 the job site for a janitorial or service contract awarded pursuant to
217 subsection (c) of this section and shall be paid the applicable standard
218 wage for such site.

219 (q) If a person with a disability or a person with a disadvantage is
220 transferred pursuant to subsection (p) of this section and such person
221 subsequently leaves such position, the position shall be filled with
222 another person with a disability or person with a disadvantage.

223 Sec. 2. Section 17a-796 of the general statutes is repealed and the
224 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

225 Whenever any products made or manufactured by or services
226 provided by persons with disabilities through community rehabilitation
227 programs or in any workshop established, operated or funded by
228 nonprofit and nonsectarian organizations for the purpose of providing
229 persons with disabilities training and employment suited to their
230 abilities meet the requirements of any department, institution or agency
231 supported in whole or in part by the state as to quantity, quality and
232 price such products shall have preference over products or services from

233 other providers, except (1) articles produced or manufactured by
234 Department of Correction industries as provided in section 18-88, (2)
235 emergency purchases made under section 4-98, and (3) janitorial or
236 contractual services provided by a qualified partnership, pursuant to
237 the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 4a-82, as
238 amended by this act. A list describing styles, designs, sizes and varieties
239 of all such articles made by persons with disabilities and describing all
240 available services provided by such persons shall be prepared by the
241 [Connecticut Community Providers Association] CT Community
242 Nonprofit Alliance.

243 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 19a-6h of the general statutes is
244 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
245 *passage*):

246 (a) There is established a State-wide Primary Care Access Authority.
247 The authority shall consist of the Commissioners of Public Health and
248 Social Services, the Comptroller and the following members: One each
249 appointed by the Connecticut Primary Care Association, the
250 Connecticut State Medical Society, the Connecticut Chapter of the
251 American Academy of Pediatrics, the Connecticut Nurses Association,
252 the Connecticut Association of School-Based Health Centers, the
253 Connecticut State Dental Association, the [Connecticut Community
254 Providers Association] CT Community Nonprofit Alliance and the
255 Weitzman Center for Innovation In Community Health and Primary
256 Care and two appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health.
257 Members shall serve for a term of four years commencing on August 1,
258 2007. All initial appointments to the committee shall be made by July 15,
259 2007. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

260 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
261 study expanding governmental employment opportunities for persons
262 with disabilities. The task force shall study best practices nation-wide
263 for governmental employment programs for persons with disabilities
264 and costs and benefits of adopting such programs in the state.

265 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

266 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
267 one of whom has expertise in employment programs for persons with
268 disabilities, and one of whom has expertise in challenges facing persons
269 with disabilities in gaining access to employment;

270 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

271 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
272 Representatives;

273 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

274 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
275 Representatives;

276 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

277 (7) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the
278 commissioner's designee;

279 (8) The Commissioner of Aging and Disabilities Services, or the
280 commissioner's designee;

281 (9) The Chief Court Administrator of the Judicial Branch, or the Chief
282 Court Administrator's designee; and

283 (10) The chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and
284 Universities, or the chancellor's designee.

285 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
286 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
287 of the General Assembly.

288 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
289 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
290 be filled by the appointing authority.

291 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
 292 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
 293 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
 294 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
 295 days after the effective date of this section.

296 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
 297 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
 298 services shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

299 (g) Not later than January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report
 300 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees
 301 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 302 government administration and elections, human services and planning
 303 and development, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
 304 the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
 305 submits such report 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>	4a-82
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17a-796
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	19a-6h(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To update statutes concerning a janitorial work program for persons with disabilities or disadvantages and establish a task force to study ways to expand governmental employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

[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.]