



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1260

LCO No. 4239



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT EXPANDING MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-124mm of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) There is established an account known as the Connecticut Career
4 Accelerator Program Account that is within the Office of Workforce
5 Strategy for the purpose of supporting commercial driver's license
6 training and training for careers identified by the Office of Workforce
7 Strategy, pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,
8 within the CareerConneCT workforce training program. The account
9 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited therein and
10 such moneys shall be held in such account. The account may accept
11 gifts, grants or donations from public or private sources. Any balance
12 remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried
13 forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The account
14 may be used for the purposes of the program described in subsection (b)

15 of this section.

16 (b) (1) Not later than July 1, 2024, the Office of Workforce Strategy
17 shall design a program to support individuals pursuing training to
18 obtain a commercial driver's license, including through the use of
19 income share agreements or equivalent financial instruments. The
20 Office of Workforce Strategy may competitively procure a consultant to
21 support the design and implementation of the program. The program
22 shall be implemented not later than January 1, 2025.

23 (2) Not later than July 1, 2025, the Office of Workforce Strategy shall
24 identify (A) additional training opportunities, for careers requiring not
25 more than one year of training, to expand the program designed
26 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (B) training providers
27 to use for such additional training opportunities.

28 (c) The design of the program under subsection (b) of this section
29 shall take into consideration: (1) Developing metrics for identifying
30 qualified training providers, (2) developing incentive-based payments
31 for training providers, such as paying a trainer eighty per cent of a
32 student's tuition prior to providing any training and paying the trainer
33 the remaining tuition upon placement of the student in a job, [and] (3)
34 developing a method for targeting potential students for the program,
35 and (4) prioritizing the inclusion of women in training opportunities
36 related to manufacturing, including, but not limited to, women who
37 apply to a youth manufacturing training program in the state or a
38 CareerConneCT workforce training program related to manufacturing,
39 whether or not such women participated in such programs. The Office
40 of Workforce Strategy shall notify any woman who participates or
41 applies to participate in the program about the availability of career and
42 financial counseling services through Connecticut State Community
43 College, pursuant to section 3 of this act. The program shall include
44 terms and conditions for the payment obligations undertaken by
45 individuals who obtain tuition assistance from the account. The
46 program shall require an individual who receives a direct tuition

47 payment from the account to repay such payment if such individual is
48 placed in a job after receiving training through the program that
49 provides the individual with a higher income than such individual
50 received prior to participating in such training. No interest shall be
51 charged on any tuition repayment obligation. The program shall also
52 consider offering wrap-around supports, such as stipends, child care
53 services, counseling and other supports identified by the Office of
54 Workforce Strategy. An individual who receives such supports shall not
55 be required to repay the account for such supports.

56 (d) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall develop a marketing plan
57 to attract individuals who fit the eligibility criteria for participation in
58 the program, specifically targeted at recruiting individuals who are
59 underserved, disadvantaged, unemployed, underemployed, dislocated
60 workers, receiving temporary assistance for needy families,
61 supplemental nutrition assistance program or any other public
62 assistance benefits, formerly incarcerated or veterans of the armed
63 services. The marketing plan shall include outreach to (1) various state
64 agencies, the regional workforce investment boards, transit authorities,
65 housing authorities, the Office of Early Childhood and other partners as
66 identified by the Office of Workforce Strategy, and (2) women who meet
67 one or more of the qualities of individuals specifically targeted for
68 recruitment.

69 (e) (1) Not later than July 1, 2025, the Office of Workforce Strategy
70 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,
71 on the design and implementation of the commercial driver's license
72 training program established under this section to the joint standing
73 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
74 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, commerce,
75 education, finance, revenue and bonding, higher education and
76 employment advancement and labor and public employees.

77 (2) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Office of
78 Workforce Strategy shall submit a report, in accordance with the

79 provisions of section 11-4a, regarding the identification of additional
 80 training opportunities and training providers pursuant to subdivision
 81 (2) of subsection (b) of this section to the joint standing committees of
 82 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 83 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, commerce, education,
 84 finance, revenue and bonding, higher education and employment
 85 advancement, and labor and public employees. Such report shall
 86 include, but need not be limited to, information on the (A) additional
 87 training opportunities identified by the Office of Workforce Strategy, (B)
 88 number and percentage of individuals participating in such
 89 opportunities who are women, by type of training program, and (C)
 90 such other demographic information on the individuals who participate
 91 in such opportunities as deemed pertinent by the office.

92 (f) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Office of
 93 Workforce Strategy shall submit a report, in accordance with the
 94 provisions of section 11-4a, on the commercial driver's license training
 95 program established under this section to the Governor and to the joint
 96 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 97 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
 98 commerce, education, finance, revenue and bonding, higher education
 99 and employment advancement and labor and public employees. Such
 100 report may include information on the (1) program completion and job
 101 placement rate of individuals participating in the program; (2) starting
 102 wages, wage gains and wage growth of individuals employed after
 103 participating in the program; (3) funds used as payment obligations,
 104 grants and wraparound services for individuals participating in the
 105 program; (4) percentage of program participants in compliance with
 106 repayment obligations; and (5) total repayments received.

107 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Each regional workforce
 108 investment board that operates a youth manufacturing training
 109 program shall specifically market such program to recruit female
 110 students enrolled in a high school in grade eleven or twelve within such
 111 board's region. Each board shall notify any female student who

112 participates or applies to participate in such youth manufacturing
113 training program about the availability of (1) manufacturing training
114 programs through the CareerConneCT workforce training program, (2)
115 interest-free loans through the Connecticut Career Accelerator Program
116 established pursuant to section 4-124mm of the general statutes, as
117 amended by this act, and (3) career and financial counseling services
118 through Connecticut State Community College pursuant to section 3 of
119 this act.

120 (b) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall (1) specifically market each
121 CareerConneCT workforce training program related to manufacturing
122 to recruit women who are underserved, disadvantaged, unemployed,
123 underemployed, dislocated workers, receiving temporary assistance for
124 needy families, supplemental nutrition assistance program or any other
125 public assistance benefits, formerly incarcerated or veterans of the
126 armed services, and (2) prioritize the participation of such women in
127 such workforce training program. The office shall notify any woman
128 who participates or applies to participate in the CareerConneCT
129 workforce training program about the availability of (A) interest-free
130 loans through the Connecticut Career Accelerator Program established
131 pursuant to section 4-124mm of the general statutes, as amended by this
132 act, and (B) career and financial counseling services through
133 Connecticut State Community College pursuant to section 3 of this act.

134 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Office
135 of Workforce Strategy and each regional workforce investment board
136 shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
137 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
138 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
139 and employment advancement on the demographic information of the
140 individuals who participate in any manufacturing training program
141 operated by said office and each board, respectively.

142 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Connecticut State
143 Community College, in consultation with each regional workforce

144 investment board and the Office of Workforce Strategy, shall offer to
145 each woman who applies to participate in a youth manufacturing
146 training program, a CareerConneCT workforce training program
147 related to manufacturing or the Connecticut Career Accelerator
148 Program established pursuant to section 4-124mm of the general
149 statutes, as amended by this act, whether such woman participated in
150 such programs or not, career and financial counseling services. Such
151 counseling services shall include, but need not be limited to, the
152 financial aid and certificate and degree programs applicable to such
153 woman's academic and career goals.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4-124mm
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4-124mm
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) prioritize the participation of women in youth manufacturing workforce training programs, CareerConneCT workforce training programs related to manufacturing and the Connecticut Career Accelerator Program, and (2) require Connecticut State Community College to offer financial and career counseling services to such women.

[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.]