



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Substitute Bill No. 1260**



**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 Section 4-124mm of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 each 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 (A) underserved, (B) disadvantaged, (C)  
123 unemployed, (D) underemployed, (E) dislocated workers, (F) receiving  
124 temporary assistance for needy families, supplemental nutrition  
125 assistance program or any other public assistance benefits, (G) formerly  
126 incarcerated, or (H) veterans of the armed services, and (2) prioritize the  
127 participation of such women in such workforce training program. The  
128 office shall notify each woman who participates or applies to participate  
129 in the CareerConneCT workforce training program about the  
130 availability of (A) interest-free loans through the Connecticut Career  
131 Accelerator Program established pursuant to section 4-124mm of the  
132 general statutes, as amended by this act, and (B) career and financial  
133 counseling services through Connecticut State Community College  
134 pursuant to section 3 of this act.

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

143 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Connecticut State  
144 Community College, in consultation with each regional workforce  
145 investment board and the Office of Workforce Strategy, shall offer  
146 career and financial counseling services to each woman who applies to  
147 participate in a youth manufacturing training program, a  
148 CareerConneCT workforce training program related to manufacturing  
149 or the Connecticut Career Accelerator Program established pursuant to  
150 section 4-124mm of the general statutes, as amended by this act, whether  
151 or not such woman participated in such programs. Such counseling  
152 services shall include, but need not be limited to, the financial aid and  
153 certificate and degree programs applicable to such woman's academic

154 and career goals.

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

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(c), "notify any woman" was changed to "notify each woman", in Section 2(b)(1), subparagraph designators (A) to (H), inclusive, were added, in Section 2(b)(2), "notify any woman" was changed to "notify each woman", and in Section 3, "career and financial counseling services" and "or not" were moved earlier in the sentence, for clarity.

**HED**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*