
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5704

AN ACT CREATING A CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a working group to study and make recommendations on developing a construction workforce pipeline program to train both students and workers for job placement with employers in the skilled trades.

The bill requires that the study examine:

1. expanding skilled trades pre-apprenticeship programs in public secondary schools;
2. increasing awareness about career opportunities in the skilled trades;
3. removing barriers to increasing apprenticeship programs;
4. expanding financial incentives, such as tax credits, for employers that offer apprenticeship programs;
5. current standards for apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs compared to existing public secondary school curriculums to identify gaps between them;
6. pathways to higher education and career advancement in the skilled trades, such as credential stacking of pre-apprenticeship programs, apprenticeship programs, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees in construction management; and
7. proposed legislation and its impacts on the construction workforce pipeline.

The bill requires the working group to annually report its findings to

the Labor and Public Employees Committee starting December 31, 2025. The working group ends on December 31, 2030.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

Members

The bill requires the working group to have the following members:

1. two appointed by the House speaker (one who represents a state-wide residential construction trade association and one who represents a state-wide trade association of electricians);
2. two appointed by the Senate president pro tempore (one who represents a state-wide heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technicians trade association and one who represents a state-wide trade association of plumbers);
3. one appointed by the House majority leader, who represents a state-wide business association of large businesses;
4. one appointed by the Senate majority leader, who is a principal of a public secondary school that incorporates a residential construction pre-apprenticeship program in the curriculum for grades 9-12;
5. one appointed by the House minority leader, who represents a state-wide business association of small businesses;
6. one appointed by the Senate minority leader, who is a superintendent of a local or regional board of education that incorporates a residential construction pre-apprenticeship program in the curriculum for grades 9-12;
7. the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the chancellor's designee; and
8. the executive director of the Technical Education and Career System, or the executive director's designee.

All appointed members may be legislators.

Under the bill, all initial appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill becomes effective. Any vacancies must be filled by the appointing authority.

Leadership and Meetings

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the commission's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the commission's first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage. Under the bill, the working group must meet quarterly and at other times as the chairpersons deem necessary.

The bill requires the Labor and Public Employees Committee's administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the commission.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/20/2025)