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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 7107

#### ***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.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill explicitly requires small and minority businesses that participate in the Department of Administrative Services's (DAS) janitorial work program to meet the program's employment and wage criteria, except for the minimum number of employees.

Under existing law, commercial contractors participating in the program generally must (1) fill at least one-third of jobs of a specific janitorial services contract with people with disabilities and an additional one-third with people with a disadvantage (i.e. a person eligible for employment services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or whose income is less than two hundred percent of the federal poverty level), (2) employ at least 200 people who perform janitorial work, and (3) pay these employees a standard wage. Current law requires DAS to authorize certified small and minority businesses to participate in the program notwithstanding these requirements. The bill explicitly requires these businesses to meet these requirements but waives the 200-employee threshold, conforming to current DAS practice.

The bill also updates the name of the organization responsible for determining if employers meet program participation criteria to the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (formerly the Connecticut Community Providers Association).

Lastly, the bill establishes a 12-member task force to study expanding governmental job opportunities for people with disabilities. The study must include best practices for governmental employment programs for

people with disabilities across the country and the costs and benefits of adopting these programs in Connecticut.

Under the bill, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Government Administration and Elections, Human Services, and Planning and Development committees by January 1, 2026. The task force terminates on this date or on the date it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## **GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE**

### ***Membership***

Under the bill, task force members include the following four state officials or their designees: the DAS and aging and disability services commissioners, judicial branch chief court administrator, and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities chancellor. An additional eight members are appointed as follows:

1. two members appointed by the House speaker: one member with expertise in employment programs for people with disabilities and one member with expertise in challenges people with disabilities face in accessing employment;
2. two members appointed by the Senate president pro tempore, one of whom must represent the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance; and
3. one member each appointed by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders.

The bill requires appointing authorities to make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancies. Appointed members may be legislators.

### ***Leadership and Meetings***

Under the bill, the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the task force chairpersons from among its members, who

must schedule and hold the task force's first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage.

The bill requires the Human Services Committee's administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the task force.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 5 (03/18/2025)