

---

---

## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 1260**

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

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes designed to expand opportunities for women in the manufacturing workforce. These changes include requiring (1) the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) to prioritize the inclusion of, and outreach to, women in their Career Accelerator Program; (2) regional workforce investment boards that operate a youth manufacturing training program to market to female high school students; and (3) the Connecticut State Community College (CT State) to offer career and financial counseling services to all women who apply to participate in a manufacturing training program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

#### **OWS PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION FOR WOMEN**

The bill expands upon the OWS's Career Accelerator Program which supports, among others, individuals pursuing training opportunities for careers that require no more than one year of training.

The bill requires the program's design to consider prioritizing the inclusion of women in manufacturing-related training opportunities. This includes women who apply to a youth manufacturing training program or CareerConneCT manufacturing workforce training program (regardless of whether they participated).

The bill requires OWS to:

1. notify any woman who participates or applies to participate in the program about the availability of career and financial counseling services through CT State (see below), and

2. include outreach to qualified women in the program's marketing plan.

Existing law requires OWS, by July 1, 2026, to report to several legislative committees on identifying additional training opportunities and training providers for the program. The bill requires OWS to report annually and adds to the required contents information on the (1) number of women participating in each type of training program, percentage of participants who are women, and other demographic details and (2) additional training opportunities identified.

### **REGIONAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS AND OWS MARKETING TO WOMEN**

The bill requires each regional workforce investment board that operates a youth manufacturing training program to specifically market the program to female 11th and 12th grade students. It also requires OWS to (1) specifically market each CareerConneCT manufacturing workforce training program to several categories of women, such as those who are underserved or disadvantaged, unemployed, formerly incarcerated, veterans, or on certain public assistance programs and (2) prioritize their participation.

The bill requires regional workforce investment boards to notify these students, once they apply or choose to participate, about the CareerConneCT workforce training program, interest-free loans through the Career Accelerator Program, and career and financial counseling services. Similarly, it requires OWS to notify these women, once they apply or choose to participate, about these loans and counseling services.

Under the bill, these boards, as well as OWS, must each submit a report with the demographic information of those participating in their manufacturing training programs to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter.

**CAREER AND FINANCIAL COUNSELING SERVICES TO WOMEN AT CT STATE**

The bill requires CT State, in consultation with OWS and each regional workforce investment board, to offer career and financial counseling services to all women who apply to participate in a youth manufacturing training program, a CareerConneCT workforce training program related to manufacturing, or the Connecticut Career Accelerator Program. The counseling services must address financial aid and certificate and degree program guidance.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 3 (02/27/2025)