
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1465

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF CONSUMER PROTECTION TO ALLOW CERTAIN SKILLED TRADE LICENSEES TO DEVIATE FROM CERTAIN SKILLED TRADE HIRING RATIOS.

SUMMARY

Existing law sets a hiring ratio that certain trades must follow (see BACKGROUND). The hiring ratio requires a certain number of licensed journeypersons or contractors before another apprentice may be hired in the following trades: electrical; plumbing; heating, piping, and cooling; sprinkler fitter; and sheet metal work.

Under this bill, the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner may allow a licensed contractor in one of these fields to hire one or more additional apprentices even if the contractor does not employ enough licensees to satisfy the hiring ratio under certain conditions.

The contractor must apply to DCP, in a way the commissioner sets, for each apprentice. The application must (1) disclose the contractor's and apprentice's name, (2) demonstrate good cause exists for the commissioner to allow the apprentice to be hired, and (3) include any other information the commissioner deems relevant.

The commissioner may allow the apprentice to be hired if he determines after reviewing the application that good cause exists.

Within 10 business days after a contractor submits an application, the commissioner must (1) complete the application review, (2) determine whether good cause exists to allow the apprentice to be hired, and (3) send notice to the contractor disclosing his decision. If the commissioner does not send notice to the contractor within this time period, the contractor's application is deemed approved.

The bill allows the DCP commissioner to amend regulations to implement these provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Hiring Ratios

Connecticut law and regulations set a hiring ratio for the following trades: electrical; plumbing; heating, piping, and cooling; sprinkler fitter; and sheet metal work (CGS § 20-332b and Conn. Agency Regs., § 20-332-15a). The below table provides the number of licensed journeypersons or contractors a company must have before hiring apprentices.

Table: Hiring Ratios of Apprentices to Licensed Journeypersons or Contractors

<i>Apprentices</i>	<i>Licensees (Journeypersons or Contractors)</i>
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	6
5	9
6	12
7	15
8	18
9	21
10*	24*

*If there are 11 or more apprentices, the ratio continues at 1:3 (apprentice to licensees).

Ratio Relief

Employers may currently request an exception to the ratio schedule from the Connecticut Department of Labor (i.e. “ratio relief”).

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/21/2025)