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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 346 (File 81, as amended by Senate "A")\***

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill changes the membership of the Governor's Workforce Council to comply with federal law, which requires a majority of the governor's appointments to the council to be business representatives. It does so by increasing the number of the governor's appointments of business representatives from 24 to 30. It also changes the qualifications for these members and requires at least one of them to be an expert in residential construction and another in unionized construction. Relatedly, the bill eliminates a separate gubernatorial appointment of a residential construction expert who, under current law, is not subject to those qualifications.

The bill also requires the governor to appoint to the council (1) a member who is a representative of a labor organization nominated by a state building trades labor organization and (2) a director of a vocational rehabilitation program at the Department of Aging and Disability Services. Additionally, the bill caps the total members of the council at 62 members and requires that modifications to the council's membership conform with federal law.

Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes, such as updating the citation to federal law.

\*Senate Amendment "A" (1) changes the qualifications for the 30 business representative members of the council and requires one of them to be an expert in unionized construction, (2) requires a gubernatorial appointment of a member who is a representative of a labor organization nominated by a state building trades labor organization, and (3) caps the council membership at 62 instead of

requiring it to be an odd number with a maximum of 61 members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## **CHANGES TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS**

Under current law, the council's business representatives appointed by the governor must:

1. be owners of a business, chief executives or operating officers of a business, or other business executives or employers with optimum policy-making or hiring authority;
2. represent businesses or organizations representing businesses that provide employment opportunities that at least include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupation in the state; or
3. have been nominated by state business organizations or business trade associations.

The bill changes this by requiring that appointees satisfy all three of the above qualifications.

By law, at least one of these members must represent small business.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Federal Requirements***

Federal law requires a state workforce development board's membership to (1) include the governor, two legislators, and other government representatives; (2) have the majority of the governor's appointments be business representatives; and (3) have at least 20% of the governor's appointments be workforce representatives (29 U.S.C. § 3111 (2024)).

### ***Council Duties***

The council's statutory duties include, among other things, convening state agencies, educational institutions, business leaders, and others to (1) inform state workforce development policy, (2) help state

agencies and educational institutions align with employers' needs, and (3) help businesses understand how to contribute to the state's workforce efforts (CGS § 31-3h).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/05/2026)