



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 81

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 346

Senate, March 19, 2026

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through SEN. KUSHNER of the 24th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 31-3i of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Pursuant to [Section 101 of the federal Workforce Innovation and
4 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128] 29 USC 3111, as amended from
5 time to time, the members of the Governor's Workforce Council shall be:

6 (1) The Governor;

7 (2) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the
8 speaker of the House of Representatives, and a member of the Senate,
9 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

10 (3) [Twenty-four] Thirty members, appointed by the Governor, who
11 (A) are owners of a business, chief executives or operating officers of a
12 business, or other business executives or employers with optimum

13 policy-making or hiring authority; (B) represent businesses or
14 organizations representing businesses that provide employment
15 opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant
16 training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupation
17 in the state; or (C) have been nominated by state business organizations
18 or business trade associations. At a minimum, at least one such member
19 shall represent small businesses, as defined by the United States Small
20 Business Administration, and at least one such member shall be an
21 expert in residential construction;

22 (4) The Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of Aging and Disability
23 Services, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Economic and
24 Community Development and the Chief Workforce Officer, or their
25 respective designees;

26 (5) Four representatives of labor organizations, who have been
27 nominated by state labor federations and appointed by the Governor;

28 (6) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is a member of a
29 labor organization or a training director from a joint labor-management
30 apprenticeship program, or, if no such joint program exists in the state,
31 such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the state;

32 (7) [An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is an expert in
33 residential construction] A director of a vocational rehabilitation
34 program within the Department of Aging and Disability Services,
35 appointed by the Governor;

36 (8) Five members, appointed by the Governor, who represent
37 community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience
38 and expertise in addressing employment, training, or education,
39 including one representative of a community action agency, as defined
40 in section 17b-885, and one representative of a philanthropic
41 organization;

42 (9) A representative from the Connecticut State Colleges and
43 Universities, a representative from The University of Connecticut and a

44 representative from a nonprofit institution of higher education in the
45 state, each appointed by the Governor;

46 (10) A representative from a regional vocational-technical school and
47 a representative from a regional agricultural science and technology
48 school, each appointed by the Governor;

49 (11) Two superintendents of a local or regional board of education,
50 appointed by the Governor;

51 (12) A certified teacher employed by a local or regional board of
52 education, appointed by the Governor;

53 (13) Two chief elected officials of municipalities, appointed by the
54 Governor; and

55 (14) Two members of the public, who are enrolled in or who have
56 recently completed a nondegree workforce training program, appointed
57 by the Governor.

58 (b) All appointments shall be made in a manner that reflects the
59 diversity of the state, including, but not limited to, geographic, gender
60 identity, racial and ethnic diversity.

61 (c) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the Governor's
62 Workforce Council from among the members appointed pursuant to
63 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section. The Chief Workforce
64 Officer shall serve as the vice-chairperson of the council.

65 (d) The Governor's Workforce Council may establish an executive
66 committee composed of members appointed by the chairperson. The
67 vice-chairperson of the council shall be a member of any such executive
68 committee. The council may delegate to the executive committee any
69 powers of the council except those powers that are required by law to
70 be exercised by the council. The chairperson may also appoint ad hoc
71 committees, workgroups or task forces to assist the council as
72 appropriate, and shall consult with the vice-chairperson and the
73 legislative members of the council in making appointments to such ad

74 hoc committees, workgroups or task forces.

75 (e) Any appointments made to the council prior to October 1, 2021,
76 shall expire on that date.

77 (f) The council shall meet not less than once every calendar quarter.

78 (g) The Governor shall establish bylaws for the council pursuant to
79 20 CFR 679.110(d), which shall include, but need not be limited to, term
80 limitations for members and how appointments will be made.

81 (h) The council shall consist of an odd number of members and the
82 total number of members shall not be more than sixty-one members.

83 (i) Any modifications made to the membership of the council shall
84 conform with the provisions of 29 USC 3111, as amended from time to
85 time.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	31-3i

LAB *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various State Agencies	FF – Precludes a Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Note: FF=Federal Funds

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill precludes a potential revenue loss in federal funds to the state by modifying the membership to the Governor’s Workforce Council. These modifications are necessary for the Council to comply with federal law. If the Council is not in compliance, the state's share of federal funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) may potentially be delayed or eliminated.

On average the state receives \$30 million annually in WIOA federal funding that may be impacted. The impacted agencies include the Department of Labor, Office of Workforce Strategy, State Department of Education, and the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future pending funding decisions from the federal government.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 346****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 requires at least one of these 30 members to be an expert in residential construction. It eliminates a separate gubernatorial appointment of a residential construction expert who does not have to be a business representative.

The bill also requires the (1) governor to appoint to the council a director of a vocational rehabilitation program at the Department of Aging and Disability Services and (2) council to consist of an odd number with a maximum of 61 members.

Under the bill, modifications to the council's membership must conform with federal law.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Council Membership***

By 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.

At least one of these members must represent small business. By law, other members include stakeholders, legislators, and government agency representatives.

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)