

# Labor and Public Employees Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5497 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON THE TRADES INDUSTRY AND REQUIRING A

**Title:** STUDY OF A CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/10/2026

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to study the ways in which artificial intelligence may impact the trades industry, and how best to prepare for the impact AI may have on job displacement within the industry.

### SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

LCO 3409 adds the DECD commissioner and chief workforce officer to the task force and removes a provision that would have required DPH to study the feasibility of creating a state-wide certified nursing assistant training program.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Daniel O'Keefe, Commissioner, DECD:** Stated that DECD's mission is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness; this is done by attracting or retaining business as well as promoting CT's arts, culture, and tourism assets. HB 5497 would establish a task force to study the effects of artificial intelligence on the trades and any potential job displacement. DECD the taskforces creation, particularly as it relates to readiness training programs. They encourage to also explore opportunities AI can bring to the trades such as improving safety and increasing efficiency. DECD recommends that the Office of Workforce Strategy be included in the task force's membership.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Brian Lanoue, State Representative, CGA:** Submitted testimony in support stating with AI's introduction many industries have been changing. It is crucial to understand how these technologies are changing the trade industries and how they will affect the state's economy. HB 5497 would establish a task force to study AI's affects. They believe this would be key information to help ensure workers have the skills they need to succeed. They ask that representation from CTECS administration be included as well as members from several certified trades. It would also be beneficial to include experts in AI such as engineers or designers. Aa AI evolves it is important to thoughtfully examine how it can be harnessed to strengthen the trades industry.

**Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge CT – RI:** Submitted testimony in support of creating a study of a potential statewide Certified Nursing Assistant training program. CNA's are essential members of nursing and long term care teams and currently there is a shortage of them.

**Kimberly Sandor, Executive Director, Connecticut Nurses Association:** Submitted testimony in support asking HB 5497 to be amended in section 2 to require a structured stakeholder engagement. A diverse group of industry experts with CAN programs would ensure the study reflects real-world workforce needs.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Anonymous 12, 13:** Submitted testimony in opposition for reasons largely unrelated to the bill.

**Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez**

**Date: 3/30/2026**