

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-346 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR'S

Title: WORKFORCE COUNCIL.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to ensure compliance with federal requirements regarding composition of the Governor's Workforce Council. Federal law requires that a majority of appointees on workforce and innovation councils represent business interests, and this will ensure that Connecticut does not lose access to associated federal funding.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL): Ms. Bartolomeo is in support of the bill because it will update the membership of the Governor's Workforce Council to follow the federal law, 29 U.S. Code § 3111, which requires the membership of the State Workforce Boards be comprised of a majority of members representing the business community. Along with ensuring the GWC includes all State officials with primary responsibility for the core Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.

Amy Porter, Commissioner, Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS): Ms. Porter is in support of the bill which revisits portions of last year's HB 6865. She states that the Governor's Workforce Council ("GWC") is Connecticut's designated state workforce board and every four years each state must submit a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act ("WIOA") Unified to receive federal funding under the Act's six core programs. However, the previous State Plan received conditional approval because of two concerns; a business majority among board members appointed by the Governor and separate core partner

representative for Vocational Rehabilitation. She warns that if these concerns are not resolved Connecticut may be found non-compliant with federal law, 29 U.S.C. § 3111. **Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Chief Workforce Officer, Office of Workforce Strategy:** Ms. Vallieres is in support of the bill. She states that the OWS is led by the Chief Workforce Officer and it is an executive branch state agency assigned to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for Administrative Purposes Only (APO). Its mission is to make the workforce work for everyone. She adds the OWS supports the Governor's Workforce Council (GWC). The GWC has led a large number of working groups around developing Connecticut's future of work, this resulted in 2025 updated state workforce strategy, WORK FORWARD: PATHWAYS FOR GROWTH - Governor's Workforce Strategic Plan. This required the Governor to appoint a diverse set of workforce stakeholders to ensure that the business-led board can fulfill its many roles and responsibilities. In order to get full funding from Title I, \$30 million, the state would need to be in full compliance of Title 29 of the US Code, Subsection 3111, this bill would bring Connecticut into full compliance.

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Education: Mr. Russell-Tucker offers some comments on Section 1 of the bill. He states it has several revisions to Section 10-151 of the general statutes, which has directions for nonrenewal or termination of non-tenured teachers and the termination of tenured teachers. He states that as currently written it would remove the board subcommittee option, and remove any involvement by a school board in the disposition of its certified employees' continued employment. This would align the Section 10- 151 termination hearing process with the grievance arbitration proceedings that are used with all other public employee unions. He adds that Section 1 would also convert the current administrative appeals to the Superior Court from hearing officer decisions to the standard used in appeals.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None provided.

Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez

Date: 3/16/2026