



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 471***

LCO No. 2724



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF APPRENTICES ON PREVAILING  
WAGE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 31-53 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *January 1, 2027*):

4 (a) Each contract for the construction, remodeling, refinishing,  
5 refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair of any public works  
6 project by the state or any of its agents, or by any political subdivision  
7 of the state or any of its agents, including, on and after July 1, 2025, each  
8 contract for off-site custom fabrication for any such public works  
9 project, shall contain the following provision: "The wages paid on an  
10 hourly basis to any person performing the work of any mechanic,  
11 laborer or worker on the work herein contracted to be done and the  
12 amount of payment or contribution paid or payable on behalf of each  
13 such person to any employee welfare fund, [as defined in subsection (i)  
14 of this section,] shall be at a rate equal to the rate customary or

15 prevailing for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the town  
16 in which such public works project is being constructed. Any contractor  
17 who is not obligated by agreement to make payment or contribution on  
18 behalf of such persons to any such employee welfare fund shall pay to  
19 each mechanic, laborer or worker as part of such person's wages the  
20 amount of payment or contribution for such person's classification on  
21 each pay day." For purposes of this subsection, "off-site custom  
22 fabrication" means the fabrication of mechanical systems that are  
23 fabricated at a site located within the state other than the location of a  
24 public works project, but are fabricated specifically for such public  
25 works project, including plumbing systems, heating systems, cooling  
26 systems, pipefitting systems, ventilation systems or exhaust duct  
27 systems. "Off-site custom fabrication" does not include components or  
28 materials that are stock shelf items or readily available.

29 (b) If the commissioner, upon inspection or investigation of a  
30 complaint, believes that a contractor or subcontractor has knowingly or  
31 wilfully employed any mechanic, laborer or worker in the construction,  
32 remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair  
33 of any public works project for or on behalf of the state or any of its  
34 agents, or any political subdivision of the state or any of its agents, at a  
35 rate of wage on an hourly basis that is less than the rate customary or  
36 prevailing for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the town  
37 in which such public works project is being constructed, remodeled,  
38 refinished, refurbished, rehabilitated, altered or repaired, or who has  
39 failed to pay the amount of payment or contributions paid or payable  
40 on behalf of each such person to any employee welfare fund, or in lieu  
41 thereof to the person, as provided by subsection (a) of this section, such  
42 contractor or subcontractor shall be issued a citation and may be fined  
43 five thousand dollars for each offense. The commissioner shall maintain  
44 a list of any contractor or subcontractor that, during the three preceding  
45 calendar years, violates this section or enters into a settlement with the  
46 commissioner to resolve any claim brought by the commissioner  
47 pursuant to this section. For each contractor or subcontractor placed on

48 such list, the commissioner shall record the following information: (1)  
49 The nature of the violation; (2) the total amount of wages and fringe  
50 benefits making up the violation or agreed upon in any settlement with  
51 the commissioner; and (3) the total amount of civil penalties and fines  
52 agreed upon by the commissioner. The commissioner shall review the  
53 list on the first day of May each year for the preceding rolling three-year  
54 period and may refer for debarment any contractor or subcontractor that  
55 committed a violation of this section during the rolling three-year  
56 period. The commissioner shall refer for debarment any contractor or  
57 subcontractor that entered into one or more settlement agreements with  
58 the commissioner where the sum total of all settlements within such  
59 period exceeds fifty thousand dollars in back wages or fringe benefits,  
60 or entered into one or more settlement agreements with the  
61 commissioner where the sum total of all settlements within such period  
62 exceeds fifty thousand dollars in civil penalties or fines agreed upon by  
63 the commissioner. Any contractor or subcontractor the commissioner  
64 refers for debarment may request a hearing before the commissioner.  
65 Such hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of  
66 chapter 54. In addition, if it is found by the contracting officer  
67 representing the state or political subdivision of the state that any  
68 mechanic, laborer or worker employed by the contractor or any  
69 subcontractor directly on the site for the work covered by the contract  
70 has been or is being paid a rate of wages less than the rate of wages  
71 required by the contract to be paid as required by this section, the state  
72 or contracting political subdivision of the state may (A) by written or  
73 electronic notice to the contractor, terminate such contractor's right to  
74 proceed with the work or such part of the work as to which there has  
75 been a failure to pay said required wages and to prosecute the work to  
76 completion by contract or otherwise, and the contractor and the  
77 contractor's sureties shall be liable to the state or the contracting political  
78 subdivision for any excess costs occasioned the state or the contracting  
79 political subdivision thereby, or (B) withhold payment of money to the  
80 contractor or subcontractor. The contracting department of the state or  
81 the political subdivision of the state shall, not later than two days after

82 taking such action, notify the Labor Commissioner, in writing or  
83 electronically, of the name of the contractor or subcontractor, the project  
84 involved, the location of the work, the violations involved, the date the  
85 contract was terminated, and steps taken to collect the required wages.

86 (c) The Labor Commissioner may make complaint to the proper  
87 prosecuting authorities for the violation of any provision of subsection  
88 (b) of this section.

89 (d) For the purpose of predetermining the prevailing rate of wage on  
90 an hourly basis and the amount of payment, contributions and member  
91 benefits paid or payable on behalf of each person to any employee  
92 welfare fund [, as defined in subsection (i) of this section,] in each town  
93 where such contract is to be performed, the Labor Commissioner shall  
94 adopt the rate of wages on an hourly basis in accordance with the  
95 provisions of this section and section 31-76c and the amount of payment,  
96 contributions and member benefits, including health, pension, annuity  
97 and apprenticeship funds, as recognized by the United States  
98 Department of Labor and the Labor Commissioner paid or payable on  
99 behalf of each person to any employee welfare fund, [as defined in  
100 subsection (i) of this section,] as established in the collective bargaining  
101 agreements or understandings between employers or employer  
102 associations and bona fide labor organizations for the same work in the  
103 same trade or occupation in the town in which the applicable public  
104 works project, as defined in section 31-56a, is being constructed. For  
105 each trade or occupation for which more than one collective bargaining  
106 agreement is in effect for the town in which such project is being  
107 constructed, the collective bargaining agreement of historical  
108 jurisdiction shall prevail. For each trade or occupation for which there  
109 is no collective bargaining agreement in effect for the town in which the  
110 public works project is being constructed, the Labor Commissioner shall  
111 adopt and use such appropriate and applicable prevailing wage rate  
112 determinations as have been made by the Secretary of Labor of the  
113 United States under the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended.

114 (e) The Labor Commissioner shall determine the prevailing rate of  
115 wages on an hourly basis and the amount of payment or contributions  
116 paid or payable on behalf of such person to any employee welfare fund  
117 [ as defined in subsection (i) of this section,] in each locality where any  
118 such public work is to be constructed, and the agent empowered to let  
119 such contract shall contact the Labor Commissioner, at least ten but not  
120 more than twenty days prior to the date such contracts will be  
121 advertised for bid, to ascertain the proper rate of wages and amount of  
122 employee welfare fund payments or contributions and shall include  
123 such rate of wage on an hourly basis and the amount of payment or  
124 contributions paid or payable on behalf of each person to any employee  
125 welfare fund, [as defined in subsection (i) of this section,] or in lieu  
126 thereof the amount to be paid directly to each person for such payment  
127 or contributions as provided in subsection (a) of this section for all  
128 classifications of labor in the proposal for the contract. The rate of wage  
129 on an hourly basis and the amount of payment or contributions to any  
130 employee welfare fund [ as defined in subsection (i) of this section,] or  
131 cash in lieu thereof, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, shall, at  
132 all times, be considered as the minimum rate for the classification for  
133 which it was established. Prior to the award of any contract, purchase  
134 order, bid package or other designation subject to the provisions of this  
135 section, such agent shall certify to the Labor Commissioner, either in  
136 writing or electronically, the total dollar amount of work to be done in  
137 connection with such public works project, regardless of whether such  
138 project consists of one or more contracts. Upon the award of any  
139 contract subject to the provisions of this section, the contractor to whom  
140 such contract is awarded shall certify, under oath, to the Labor  
141 Commissioner the pay scale to be used by such contractor and any of  
142 the contractor's subcontractors for work to be performed under such  
143 contract.

144 (f) Each employer subject to the provisions of this section, section 31-  
145 53c, as amended by this act, subsection (f) of section 31-53d or section  
146 31-54 shall (1) keep, maintain and preserve such records relating to the

147 wages and hours worked by each person performing the work of any  
148 mechanic, laborer and worker and a schedule of the occupation or work  
149 classification at which each person performing the work of any  
150 mechanic, laborer or worker on the project is employed during each  
151 work day and week in such manner and form as the Labor  
152 Commissioner establishes to assure the proper payments due to such  
153 persons or employee welfare funds under this section, section 31-53c, as  
154 amended by this act, subsection (f) of section 31-53d or section 31-54,  
155 regardless of any contractual relationship alleged to exist between the  
156 contractor and such person, provided such employer shall have the  
157 option of keeping, maintaining and preserving such records in an  
158 electronic format, and (2) submit monthly to the contracting agency or  
159 the Department of Economic and Community Development pursuant  
160 to section 31-53c, as amended by this act, or to the developer of a covered  
161 project, as defined in section 31-53d, as applicable, by mail, electronic  
162 mail or other method accepted by such agency, the Department of  
163 Economic and Community Development or such developer, a certified  
164 payroll that shall consist of a complete copy of such records  
165 accompanied by a statement signed by the employer that indicates (A)  
166 such records are correct; (B) the rate of wages paid to each person  
167 performing the work of any mechanic, laborer or worker and the  
168 amount of payment or contributions paid or payable on behalf of each  
169 such person to any employee welfare fund [, as defined in subsection (i)  
170 of this section,] are not less than the prevailing rate of wages and the  
171 amount of payment or contributions paid or payable on behalf of each  
172 such person to any employee welfare fund, as determined by the Labor  
173 Commissioner pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and not less  
174 than those required by the contract to be paid; (C) the employer has  
175 complied with the applicable provisions of this section, section 31-53c,  
176 as amended by this act, subsection (f) of section 31-53d and section 31-  
177 54; (D) each such person is covered by a workers' compensation  
178 insurance policy for the duration of such person's employment, which  
179 shall be demonstrated by submitting to the contracting agency the name  
180 of the workers' compensation insurance carrier covering each such

181 person, the effective and expiration dates of each policy and each policy  
182 number; (E) the employer does not receive kickbacks, as defined in 41  
183 USC 52, from any employee or employee welfare fund; and (F) pursuant  
184 to the provisions of section 53a-157a, the employer is aware that filing a  
185 certified payroll which the employer knows to be false is a class D felony  
186 for which the employer may be fined up to five thousand dollars,  
187 imprisoned for up to five years, or both. This subsection shall not be  
188 construed to prohibit a general contractor from relying on the  
189 certification of a lower tier subcontractor, provided the general  
190 contractor shall not be exempted from the provisions of section 53a-157a  
191 if the general contractor knowingly relies upon a subcontractor's false  
192 certification. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1-210, the  
193 certified payroll shall be considered a public record and every person  
194 shall have the right to inspect and copy such records in accordance with  
195 the provisions of section 1-212. The provisions of subsections (a) and (b)  
196 of section 31-59 and sections 31-66 and 31-69 that are not inconsistent  
197 with the provisions of this section, section 31-53c, as amended by this  
198 act, or 31-54 apply to this section. Failing to file a certified payroll  
199 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection is a class D felony for  
200 which the employer may be fined up to five thousand dollars,  
201 imprisoned for up to five years, or both.

202 (g) Any contractor who is required by the Labor Department to make  
203 any payment as a result of a subcontractor's failure to pay wages or  
204 benefits, or any subcontractor who is required by the Labor Department  
205 to make any payment as a result of a lower tier subcontractor's failure  
206 to pay wages or benefits, may bring a civil action in the Superior Court  
207 to recover no more than the damages sustained by reason of making  
208 such payment, together with costs and a reasonable attorney's fee.

209 (h) (1) For any public works contract, as defined in section 46a-68b,  
210 entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, where the total cost  
211 of construction on a public works project exceeds ten million dollars, the  
212 total on-site hours worked by employees who are subject to the  
213 provisions of this section, by trade or occupation, who are paid an

214 hourly wage and directly employed by a contractor or subcontractor,  
215 shall include work performed by apprentices meeting the requirements  
216 of subdivision (3) of this subsection, in a percentage not less than as  
217 required by subdivision (5) of this subsection.

218 (2) The requirements of this section shall apply separately to each  
219 contractor or subcontractor employing employees in an apprenticeable  
220 trade who are performing work pursuant to a public works contract and  
221 shall not be applied on an aggregate or project-wide basis.

222 (3) Apprentices performing work under this subsection shall be  
223 enrolled in bona fide apprenticeship programs which have had at least  
224 one apprentice complete the program within the preceding five years  
225 and that are (A) registered with and approved by the Labor  
226 Department's office of apprenticeship training; or (B) registered with  
227 and approved by the United States Department of Labor.

228 (4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require that an  
229 apprenticeship program qualify as an employee welfare benefit plan  
230 under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as  
231 amended from time to time.

232 (5) The required minimum percentage of total on-site hours  
233 performed by apprentices pursuant to a public works contract pursuant  
234 to this subsection shall be phased in as follows:

235 (A) One year after January 1, 2027: Five per cent;

236 (B) Two years after January 1, 2027: Ten per cent; and

237 (C) Three years after January 1, 2027: Fifteen per cent.

238 (6) All use of apprentices under this subsection shall be in accordance  
239 with all applicable apprentice-to-journeyperson ratios established by  
240 state or federal law.

241 (7) The Labor Commissioner may grant a limited waiver of the

242 requirements of this subsection upon making a finding, in writing, that  
243 no responsible and qualified bidder maintaining or participating in an  
244 apprenticeship program is reasonably available for a specific trade or  
245 scope of work. Any such waiver shall be limited to such trade or scope  
246 and shall not apply to the entire public works project unless the  
247 commissioner makes a written finding for each affected trade. All  
248 documentation of any such waivers granted shall be retained as part of  
249 the public record for the contract.

250 (8) Any construction manager, general contractor or subcontractor  
251 for a public works contract subject to the provisions of this subsection  
252 who fails to maintain or participate in a bona fide apprenticeship  
253 program and who is not otherwise exempt pursuant to a waiver granted  
254 under subdivision (7) of this subsection, shall not be deemed a  
255 responsible and qualified bidder.

256 (9) The Labor Commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance  
257 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
258 subsection.

259 [(h) (1)] (i) The provisions of this section shall not apply where [(A)]  
260 (1) the combined total cost or total bond authorization for all work to be  
261 performed by all contractors and subcontractors in connection with new  
262 construction of any public works project is less than one million dollars,  
263 or [(B)] (2) the combined total cost of all work to be performed by all  
264 contractors and subcontractors in connection with any remodeling,  
265 refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair of any  
266 public works project is less than one hundred thousand dollars.

267 [(2) On and after October 31, 2017, and prior to July 1, 2019, the  
268 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply where the work to be  
269 performed by any contractor or subcontractor in connection with new  
270 construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation,  
271 alteration or repair of any public works project funded in whole or in  
272 part by any private bequest that is greater than nine million dollars but

273 less than twelve million dollars for a municipality in New Haven  
274 County with a population of not less than twelve thousand and not  
275 more than thirteen thousand, as determined by the most recent  
276 population estimate by the Department of Public Health.

277 (3) On and after July 1, 2019, and prior to January 1, 2020, the  
278 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply where the work to be  
279 performed by any contractor or subcontractor in connection with new  
280 construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation,  
281 alteration or repair of any public works project funded in whole or in  
282 part by any private bequest that is greater than nine million dollars but  
283 less than twenty-two million dollars for a municipality in New Haven  
284 County with a population of not less than twelve thousand and not  
285 more than thirteen thousand, as determined by the most recent  
286 population estimate by the Department of Public Health.]

287 [(i)] (j) As used in this section and sections 31-53c, as amended by this  
288 act, and 31-54, (1) "employee welfare fund" means any trust fund  
289 established by one or more employers and one or more labor  
290 organizations or one or more other third parties not affiliated with the  
291 employers to provide from moneys in the fund, whether through the  
292 purchase of insurance or annuity contracts or otherwise, benefits under  
293 an employee welfare plan; provided such term [shall] does not include  
294 any such fund where the trustee, or all of the trustees, are subject to  
295 supervision by the Banking Commissioner of this state or any other state  
296 or the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States or the Board of  
297 Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and (2) "benefits under an  
298 employee welfare plan" means one or more benefits or services under  
299 any plan established or maintained for persons performing the work of  
300 any mechanics, laborers or workers or their families or dependents, or  
301 for both, including, but not limited to, medical, surgical or hospital care  
302 benefits; benefits in the event of sickness, accident, disability or death;  
303 benefits in the event of unemployment, or retirement benefits.

304 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) Any contractor or

305 subcontractor who fails to comply with the requirements concerning  
306 usage of apprentices in subsection (h) of section 31-53 of the general  
307 statutes, as amended by this act, shall be subject to a civil penalty  
308 assessed by the Labor Commissioner. Such civil penalty shall be  
309 calculated based on the number of apprentice hours required by not  
310 performed under a public works contract, as defined in section 46a-68b  
311 of the general statutes, but shall not exceed two hundred dollars per  
312 hour of noncompliance. In determining whether to assess a penalty  
313 under this section, the commissioner shall consider whether the  
314 contractor or subcontractor made a good faith effort to comply with  
315 such requirements concerning usage of apprentices, including any  
316 documentation of efforts to obtain apprentices from approved  
317 programs.

318 (b) Any civil penalty collected pursuant to this section shall be  
319 deposited into a workforce training or apprenticeship related account,  
320 as determined by the Labor Commissioner, for the purpose of  
321 supporting registered apprenticeship programs.

322 (c) The Department of Administrative Services, or any other  
323 awarding authority, as defined in section 4b-91 of the general statutes,  
324 may withhold payment under a public works contract until either the  
325 contractor or subcontractor complies with the requirements of  
326 subsection (h) of section 31-53 of the general statutes, as amended by  
327 this act, or has paid any civil penalty imposed under this section.

328 (d) Any contractor or subcontractor found to have wilfully or  
329 repeatedly violated the requirements concerning usage of apprentices  
330 in subsection (h) of section 31-53 of the general statutes, as amended by  
331 this act, may, in addition to any civil penalty, be subject to a temporary  
332 disqualification from bidding on public works contracts for a period not  
333 exceeding one year.

334 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 10a-109n of the 2026 supplement to  
335 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

336 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

337 (d) For the purposes of part III of chapter 557, a project undertaken  
338 by the university shall be deemed to be a state public works project and  
339 consist of public buildings. For purposes of subsection (h) of section 31-  
340 53, as amended by this act, any project undertaken by the university  
341 exceeding ten million dollars shall require contractors and  
342 subcontractors to comply with the requirements of said subsection.

343 Sec. 4. Section 10a-153 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
344 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

345 The constituent units of the state system of higher education shall  
346 comply with (1) the provisions of section 4a-60g when undertaking  
347 remodeling, alteration, repair or enlargement projects pursuant to the  
348 provisions of sections 4b-51, 4b-52, 4b-55 and 4b-91, and (2) the  
349 provisions of subsection (h) of section 31-53, as amended by this act,  
350 concerning usage of apprentices for any construction contract with a  
351 value exceeding ten million dollars.

352 Sec. 5. Subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section 4a-100 of the general  
353 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
354 (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

355 (7) A statement of whether (A) the applicant has been disqualified  
356 pursuant to section 4b-95, this section, [or] section 31-57c or 31-57d or  
357 section 2 of this act, (B) the applicant is disqualified or prohibited from  
358 being awarded a contract pursuant to section 31-57b, (C) the applicant  
359 has been disqualified by another state, (D) the applicant has been  
360 disqualified by a federal agency or pursuant to federal law, (E) the  
361 applicant's registration has been suspended or revoked by the  
362 Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 20-341gg, (F)  
363 the applicant has been disqualified by a municipality, and (G) the  
364 matters that gave rise to any such disqualification, suspension or  
365 revocation have been eliminated or remedied; and

366 Sec. 6. Subsection (i) of section 4a-100 of the general statutes is  
367 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
368 *1, 2027*):

369 (i) The commissioner may not issue or renew a prequalification  
370 certificate to any contractor or substantial subcontractor (1) who is  
371 disqualified pursuant to section 31-57c, [or] 31-57d or section 2 of this  
372 act, or (2) who has a principal or key personnel who, within the past five  
373 years, has a conviction or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere  
374 for or has admitted to commission of an act or omission that reasonably  
375 could have resulted in disqualification pursuant to any provision of  
376 subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection (d) of section 31-57c, [or]  
377 subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection (d) of section 31-57d, or  
378 section 2 of this act, as determined by the commissioner.

379 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 31-53b of the general statutes is  
380 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
381 *1, 2027*):

382 (a) Each contract for a public works project entered into on or after  
383 July 1, 2009, by the state or any of its agents, or by any political  
384 subdivision of the state or any of its agents, described in subsection [(h)]  
385 (i) of section 31-53, as amended by this act, shall contain a provision  
386 requiring that each contractor furnish proof with the weekly certified  
387 payroll form for the first week each employee begins work on such  
388 project that any person performing the work of a mechanic, laborer or  
389 worker pursuant to the classifications of labor under section 31-53, as  
390 amended by this act, on such public works project, pursuant to such  
391 contract, has completed a course of at least ten hours in duration in  
392 construction safety and health approved by the federal Occupational  
393 Safety and Health Administration or, has completed a new miner  
394 training program approved by the Federal Mine Safety and Health  
395 Administration in accordance with 30 CFR 46 or, in the case of  
396 telecommunications employees, has completed at least ten hours of  
397 training in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.268, and, on or after July 1,

398 2012, that any plumber or electrician subject to the continuing education  
399 requirements of section 20-334d, who has completed a course of at least  
400 ten hours in duration in construction safety and health approved by the  
401 federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration five or more  
402 years prior to the date such electrician or plumber begins work on such  
403 public works project, has completed a supplemental refresher training  
404 course of at least four hours in duration in construction safety and health  
405 taught by a federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
406 authorized trainer.

407 Sec. 8. Subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 31-53c of the 2026  
408 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
409 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

410 (b) On and after July 1, 2018, if the Department of Economic and  
411 Community Development provides financial assistance to any business  
412 organization for any construction project of such business organization,  
413 the Department of Economic and Community Development shall  
414 require, as a condition of providing such financial assistance, that any  
415 contract entered into by the business organization for such project shall  
416 contain the following provision: "The wages paid on an hourly basis to  
417 any person performing the work of any mechanic, laborer or worker on  
418 the work herein contracted to be done and the amount of payment or  
419 contribution paid or payable on behalf of each such person to any  
420 employee welfare fund, as defined in [subsection (i) of] section 31-53, as  
421 amended by this act, shall be at a rate equal to the rate customary or  
422 prevailing for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the town  
423 in which such construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing,  
424 rehabilitation, alteration or repair project is being undertaken. Any  
425 contractor who is not obligated by agreement to make payment or  
426 contribution on behalf of such persons to any such employee welfare  
427 fund shall pay to each mechanic, laborer or worker as part of such  
428 person's wages the amount of payment or contribution for such person's  
429 classification on each pay day."

430 (c) Any contractor or subcontractor who knowingly or wilfully  
431 employs any mechanic, laborer or worker in any project receiving  
432 financial assistance from the Department of Economic and Community  
433 Development for such project, at a rate of wage on an hourly basis that  
434 is less than the rate customary or prevailing for the same work in the  
435 same trade or occupation in the town in which such project is located,  
436 or who fails to pay the amount of payment or contributions paid or  
437 payable on behalf of each such person to any employee welfare fund, as  
438 defined in [subsection (i) of] section 31-53, as amended by this act, or in  
439 lieu thereof to the person, as provided by subsection (b) of this section,  
440 shall be fined not less than two thousand five hundred dollars but not  
441 more than five thousand dollars for each offense and (1) for the first  
442 violation, shall be disqualified from bidding on contracts for projects for  
443 which the Department of Economic and Community Development  
444 provides financial assistance until the contractor or subcontractor has  
445 made full restitution of the back wages owed to such persons and for an  
446 additional six months thereafter, and (2) for subsequent violations, shall  
447 be disqualified from bidding on contracts for projects for which the  
448 Department of Economic and Community Development provides  
449 financial assistance until the contractor or subcontractor has made full  
450 restitution of the back wages owed to such persons and for not less than  
451 an additional two years thereafter. In addition, if it is found by the  
452 contracting officer representing the business organization that any  
453 mechanic, laborer or worker employed by the contractor or any  
454 subcontractor directly on the site for the work covered by the contract  
455 has been or is being paid a rate of wages less than the rate of wages  
456 required by the contract to be paid as required by this section, the  
457 business organization may (A) by written or electronic notice to the  
458 contractor, terminate such contractor's right to proceed with the work  
459 or such part of the work as to which there has been a failure to pay said  
460 required wages and to prosecute the work to completion by contract or  
461 otherwise, and the contractor and the contractor's sureties shall be liable  
462 to the business organization for any excess costs occasioned the business  
463 organization thereby, or (B) withhold payment of money to the

464 contractor or subcontractor. The contracting business organization shall,  
 465 not later than two days after taking such action, notify the Labor  
 466 Commissioner, in writing or electronically, of the name of the contractor  
 467 or subcontractor, the project involved, the location of the work, the  
 468 violations involved, the date the contract was terminated and steps  
 469 taken to collect the required wages.

470 (d) The Labor Commissioner may make complaint to the proper  
 471 prosecuting authorities for the violation of any provision of subsection  
 472 (c) of this section.

473 (e) The Labor Commissioner shall predetermine the prevailing rate  
 474 and the amount of payment or contributions paid or payable on behalf  
 475 of each person to any employee welfare fund, as defined in [subsection  
 476 (i) of] section 31-53, as amended by this act, in each town where such  
 477 contract is to be performed, in the same manner as provided in  
 478 subsection (d) of section 31-53, as amended by this act.

479 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 31-760 of the general statutes is  
 480 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
 481 *1, 2027*):

482 (a) For the purposes of this section, "employee welfare fund" has the  
 483 same meaning as provided in [subsection (i) of] section 31-53, as  
 484 amended by this act.

|   |                        |                  |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                        |                  |
| Section 1   | <i>January 1, 2027</i> | 31-53            |
| Sec. 2  | <i>January 1, 2027</i> | New section      |
| Sec. 3  | <i>January 1, 2027</i> | 10a-109n(d)      |
| Sec. 4  | <i>January 1, 2027</i> | 10a-153          |
| Sec. 5  | <i>January 1, 2027</i> | 4a-100(c)(7)     |
| Sec. 6  | <i>January 1, 2027</i> | 4a-100(i)        |
| Sec. 7  | <i>January 1, 2027</i> | 31-53b(a)        |
| Sec. 8  | <i>January 1, 2027</i> | 31-53c(b) to (e) |

|        |                 |           |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|
| Sec. 9 | January 1, 2027 | 31-76o(a) |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|

**Statement of Purpose:**

To create phased-in requirements for the usage of apprentices on certain prevailing wage public works projects, and to subject contractors and subcontractors who do not comply to a civil penalty and temporary disqualification from public works contracts.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*