
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)