

PA13-140

HB6433

House	4057-4068	12
Labor	585, 587, 708-712, 1059-1062	11
Senate	4242-4243, 4250-4252	5
		28

H – 1161

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 12
3815 – 4176**

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

129
May 15, 2013

Necessary for passage	71
Those voting Yea	116
Those voting Nay	24
Absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The bill passes as amended.

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 114.

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker, Calendar 114 on page 3, favorable report of the Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees. Substitute House Bill 6433, AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT STATUTES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I appreciate this opportunity. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

130
May 15, 2013

Will you remark further?

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This truly is concerning technical and other minor changes to the Labor Department's statutes. We worked very hard to keep it that way. We had very many suggestions including some I made and liked of other changes that could fit in this bill. But we decided to be aggressive about keeping it acceptable and technical.

And along that line, there are a couple of changes we discovered after drafting the bill that we would like to make. And for that reason, I would like the Clerk to please call -- and the Clerk has an amendment, LCO Number 6312. And I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 6312, which will be designated House Amendment "A" -- Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 6312, as introduced by
Representative Tercyak, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there any objection to summarization? Is there any objection?

Hearing none, Representative Tercyak, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

This amendment is as easy as the four lines make it look. In the first two lines it talks about inserting a bracket. This has to do with the lifetime limit on the IDAs, Independent Deposit Act Program, where we will keep the \$3,000 lifetime limit for matching funds. But it allows it to be accrued in just one year versus a thousand dollars per year to reach the total of 3,000.

The other changes it makes is it strikes Section 20 in its entirety, of course, renumbering the remaining sections. We strike Section 20 not just because of what it says, and I'm sure what it says is very nice, but it doesn't matter at all. It doesn't -
- it has to do with the Labor Department and in the

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

132
May 15, 2013

Labor Committee we try not to pass laws that don't have to do with the Labor Department. It has to do with the Department of Economic and Community Development, that's not our bailiwick, we'd like it to be the heck out of our bill.

So I hope people will support these minor technical changes on the amendment.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the amendment that is before us?

Representative Smith of the 108th.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The good Chairman summarized the amendment very nicely, and I ask the Chamber to adopt and actually support the amendment as well.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the amendment that is before -- before us?

If not, let me try your minds, all those in favor signify by saying Aye.

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

133
May 15, 2013

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

All those opposed, Nay.

The amendment passes.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Smith of the 108th.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And again, the bill as identified in the title is a technical change bill. I have confirmed that the changes are, in fact, technical and are needed, and delete some obsolete references that had been incorporated in our statutes, tweaked some other items, but basically makes the labor statutes better statutes. And I urge my caucus, and my colleagues, to support the bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative O'Neill of the 69th.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker.

A quick question, if I may, to the Chair of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. One of the things that's eliminated under the terms of the bill is a tax credit. And I notice that the fiscal note indicates that there is no fiscal impact from the bill. And I guess my question is during the course of the discussions about this bill, was there sort of -- some kind of a conversation to the effect that this tax credit is not being utilized by anybody? Because if the tax credit no longer exists, then presumably the State will no longer be giving people a -- not no longer exists, but once we say it no longer exists, then the State would not have to give a tax credit to people who hire those who come off the Temporary Assistance Program. So the only way that would have no fiscal impact would be if no one is using that tax credit.

So I guess my first question would be is anyone currently using the tax credit is being eliminated pursuant to the bill?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

I believe the tax credit we're talking about has to do with hiring people receiving benefits from the Temporary Family Assistance Program, and -- which I don't want to get confused with the Displaced Homemaker Program, because while similar they're not the same, although both are going away. But, yes, my recollection is that this isn't being used.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I was just wondering if -- if there was any -- if there was a reason why this was no longer being utilized. Obviously there must be people still leaving the Temporary Assistance to Families Program unless they're not leaving it, I suppose, but I'm assuming that they were leaving it. But, through you, Madam Speaker, is there a reason why this is not being used or has not been used?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Through you, just to make sure that we're talking the same section, I'm thinking of a number, is it the same one that the Representative is referring to?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Well, I'm looking at the OLR summary, and under other changes it says: "The bill also makes the following changes: repeals the tax credit for hiring people receiving benefits from the Temporary Family Assistance Program" and it refers to Section 23 of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My recollection from discussion and testimony about the bills is that that is not a tax credit that is currently being utilized.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative O'Neill.

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

137
May 15, 2013

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Okay. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I appreciate the answer. Just -- well -- thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Shaban of the 135th.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

If I may, a quick question to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Please frame your question.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm trying to figure out, one of the -- the description here says, among other things, that we're making some other federally-mandated conforming changes to improve Department functionality. And I was trying to connect the dots, looking at the OLR and whatnot, and perhaps need more time to do so, but if the Chairman could help me, what are those federally-mandated conforming changes?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

138
May 15, 2013

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Through you, our laws, as the Representative is aware, have to conform with federal laws. Sometimes it seems to some of us, including me, that our demands for exact language are more strict than common sense says they should be. But it doesn't matter. We still have to have the same language as federal laws for our laws to be legal.

The favorite example I have of conforming technical changes in this bill and the one that makes the most -- the one that makes the most difference is there is a section where we talk about three-months of unemployment benefits at a time, where according to federal law we have to say 13 weeks of federal benefits at a time. I'm certain that there's -- there's another minor conforming change, but that is the most serious of the conforming changes we are making.

Through you, Madam Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I thank the gentleman. Yeah, I, too, share the frustration that the Chairman has when we're ordered to do things from on high. And it appeared to me that some of this stuff was language changes, I wanted to confirm that. So I thank the gentleman and thank the Chamber for its time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will members take their seats and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to see that your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, then the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6433 as amended by House "A":

Total number voting 142

Necessary for adoption 72

Those voting Yea 142

Voting Nay 0

Absent and not voting 8

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The bill as amended passes.

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Representative Camillo of the 151st.

Representative Rojas of the 9th.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

For an introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Just upstairs, Representative Abercrombie and myself were lucky enough to have been recognized by the Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education for our work on adult education. Along with us being recognized, there are some students who were

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**LABOR AND
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
PART 2
365 - 714**

2013

1 February 26, 2013
 tk/gbr LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES 2:00 P.M.

CHAIRMEN: Senator Osten,
 Representative Tercyak

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Osten, Gerratana,
 Markley

REPRESENTATIVES: Tercyak, Smith,
 Esposito, Kinger, Miner,
 Williams

SENATOR OSTEN: Public hearing for February 26th to order. We're going to remind everybody that you don't need to read your whole testimony. We would prefer that even public officials keep it down to the three-minute timeframe. And we're going to -- I don't -- is Senator Loony here? We're going to go on to Commissioner Palmer. You're up.

SHARON PALMER: Well, good afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, and member of the committee, I guess. There are several bills on today's hearing agenda, which I testified in support of last week. And I just want to reiterate my support for these numbers, and these are new numbers on the bill. Our Senate 926 and 27, House 6449, 6450, 6451, and 6452.

HB5686 HB5701
HB6151 HB6432
HB6433 HB6434

SB927

And let me go on to the others that are up before you today. And they're all mainly technical bills. The first one is 909, Unemployment Conformity. This is part of our legislative package, and we need to have conformity with federal law. A state's failure to implement the penalty that's in this legislation would be ground for initiating conformity proceedings to deny certifying the state for grants. So we need to be in compliance with the penalties that

providing the worker to the home. There was a case not too long ago of a worker's comp injury and the homemaker -- the homemaker -- the client in the home was liable for \$1 million in damages. A very difficult situation. So we -- we want the employer to provide the unemployment comp, the wages, worker's comp.

Excuse me. Again 6433, there are a whole bunch of technical changes. I'm not going to go through them all. If you have questions, please feel free to ask. They again are also pretty much compliance issues for federal regulation.

And then 6434 is about volunteer fire departments and ambulance companies, and the definition of employer. This is part of our package. And it modifies the definition of employer. We have a problem in that there are all kinds of different relationships within towns and their volunteer fire companies, but the bottom line is we want to make sure that those individuals that are volunteer are covered for health and safety.

And so this language would take care of that regardless of how it's set up within the town. And that's the bottom line on that bill. And that's in a nutshell what all of these are about. Thank you for your time.

SENATOR OSTEN: Thank you very much, Commissioner. Are there any questions for the commissioner? Representative Miner?

REP. MINER: Thank you, Madame Chairman. Good afternoon, Commissioner.

SHARON PALMER: Good afternoon.

Appreciate it. John Beauregard, followed by Lori Pellitier, followed by Mary DiPietro. Good afternoon, John.

JOHN BEAUREGARD: Good afternoon, Senator. How are you?

SENATOR OSTEN: I'm good. Nice to see you.

JOHN BEAUREGARD: Representative Tercyak. Nice to see you. Members of the committee. Good afternoon. My name is John Beauregard, I'm the executive director of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board. Today I'm representing the Connecticut Workforce Development Council, a collaborative of the state's five workforce investment boards, focused on achieving statewide coordination of an issue that's pertaining to work or education and training.

HB 6433

The partnership of Connecticut's Workforce Investment Boards, the Connecticut Department of Labor and dozens of service delivery and training organizations that comprise Connecticut's Public Workforce system has established a strong record of performance and innovation.

One of the most important components in our partnerships programming mix is incumbent worker training. Worker training is designed to proactively partner with Connecticut's employers to upgrade existing middle skill workers or to advance low skill workers into middle skill jobs.

It helps our state retain and grow our existing employer base, and thereby create new job opportunities. Incumbent worker training program is the beneficiary of several federal grants brought to Connecticut by (inaudible)

such as the \$20 million in federal H1B programming, and the partnership we share with Connecticut DOL to deliver the Step-Up program outlined in the Jobs Bill.

To see an example of the efficiency of our partnership, one needs to look no further than the most recent fiscal year. The state allocated \$450,000 in the incumbent worker training line item, and through effective local connections with area businesses, employers invested both release time and matching funds in the program for a total of \$1,152,835. That's more than doubling the state's investment.

In total, this combined pool provided training to over 2,000 Connecticut employees located at 98 different employers statewide. State funds were obligated in the first six months. We support program alignment but also the most efficient use of resources. Accordingly, we believe the most efficient use of increasingly scarce system resources occurs when we in the Connecticut DOL continue to run this program in partnership at the regional level with our workforce partner organizations engaged.

For example, a senator in our three county eastern region, multiple chambers of commerce and Connecticut DOL are joined by two economic development agencies, and WIB's stem council chair to conduct the procurement of companies.

This panel establishes a priority scoring system based on regional need and final selections are approved by a chief elected officials -- partners that partner with us on workforce issues.

The ability for regional stakeholders to shape the review criteria during procurement raises

one final but important point. We believe the proposed policy, which calls for 50 percent of the resources to go to companies who haven't received funds in the last three years, to be an unnecessary addition.

Appropriately framed, regional selection criteria can accomplish the same intentions without risking an unnecessary blocking out of growing companies. Maintaining flexibility at the regional level will best allow us to serve the needs of our employers seeking to stay and grow in Connecticut.

The 50 percent rule would reduce the company's ability to participate in the program, and potentially diminish opportunities to help the company with potential new hires. We at the Workforce Development Council look forward to the opportunity to continue to partner with the Connecticut Department of Labor and to operate the incumbent worker training program by parlaying additional investments to promote economic growth of our state. Thank you.

SENATOR OSTEN: Thanks, John. Are there any questions? I have a couple. I had some questions regarding the workforce investment boards in general, John, not necessarily about this 50 percent rule. But is there any specific program that in the workforce investment boards that directs attention to the chronically unemployed and specifically those regions that have chronically unemployed folks?

JOHN BEAUREGARD: Are you speaking of the long-term unemployed, Senator, correct.

SENATOR OSTEN: Yes.

JOHN BEAUREGARD: I think because of the increasing

number of the long-term unemployment that we're dealing with and saying as we've made connections with other regional agencies to provide what we call human service integration efforts, you'd be familiar with that, or the Community Action Programs in our region, to link them up with the support systems they need so that they can be ready for the referral when we get them ready for employment.

And that has been frankly an increasingly strong part of the Connecticut works centers that were once primarily just designed for job search and placement. The change in nature right now of the labor force that we deal with and the long-term unemployed numbers that are mounting.

SENATOR OSTEN: And in this concept that is outlined here, do you believe that companies that aren't spending would be unfairly dismissed from participating in this program?

JOHN BEAUREGARD: I think if we prescribe it -- and I can use the case in your area. There is a couple of companies that from the town that we're -- I looked back in the records that were -- received funding in the first year and then in the third year. Under that rule they would be barred from both activities.

The situation is a company could be investing small dollars over three years, you know, and didn't have the money to do one big program in one year. So it's possible that they could be eligible and adding jobs in each of those years, albeit small, because a lot of times we're dealing with small employers, and they're just not well equipped to be, you know, taking their whole shot in one year and then sitting on the sidelines for three.

Job creation is not an exact science. That's the bottom line to it. And so when employers are growing, I think anything that ties our hands at the regional level providing the partnerships we have in place to evaluate them, we might be shooting ourselves in the foot. That's the bottom line.

SENATOR OSTEN: Well, I know I'm very proud of the work that you do on the eastern workforce for us, John. I think you do an excellent job down there, and I'm happy to see more jobs happening in eastern Connecticut as a result of the work that you do. Are there any other questions? Thank you very much, John. Appreciate it.

JOHN BEAUREGARD: Thank you, Senator. And thank you to the committee.

SENATOR OSTEN: Lori Pellitier, followed by Mary DiPietro and Richard Edmonds.

LORI PELLITIER: Good evening, Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I'm Lori Pellitier and I serve as the secretary treasurer of the Connecticut AFLCIO. And I have submitted written testimony on a number of the bills here today, but I'd like to just take out a couple of them for specific testimony.

SB925 HB5533
HB5701 HB6416
HB6417

Proposed Senate Bill 54, establishing a retirement savings plan for low-income private sector workers. We applaud Senator Looney in bringing this bill out. Again I know that it was said earlier that retirement is a three-legged stool and Social Security is not enough. People need to be able to save to try to get to retirement and we appreciate and

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**LABOR AND
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
PART 3
715 - 1077**

2013

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**LABOR AND
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
PART 3
715 - 1077**

2013

#48



Testimony on HB 6433 An Act Concerning Technical and Other Changes to the Labor Department Statutes
February 26, 2103

Provided by John Beauregard, Executive Director, Eastern Workforce Investment Board
on behalf of the Connecticut Workforce Development Council

Good afternoon. My name is John Beauregard and I am the Executive Director of the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board. I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Workforce Development Council (CWDC), a collaborative of the state's five Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) that is focused on achieving statewide coordination of efforts pertaining to worker education and training.

The partnership of Connecticut's Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), the CT Department of Labor and dozens of service delivery and training organizations that comprise CT's public workforce systems has established a strong track record of performance and innovation. Our partnership serves all job seekers including youth, economically disadvantaged adults, and recently laid-off workers. Amidst challenging economic conditions we work each day to help identify career pathways where people can return to work and secure the quality of life they seek for themselves and their families.

One of the most important components in our partnership's programming mix is incumbent worker training (IWT). IWT is designed to upgrade existing middle-skill workers or to advance low-skill workers into middle-skill jobs. As part of the program, employers are expected to report an increase in skill level, demonstrate movement for employees through career pathways, and document savings or increased productivity. IWT helps our state retain and grow our existing employer base and thereby create new job opportunities. It serves as an ideal complement to the STEP UP programming outlined in the Jobs Bill and currently being delivered by DOL and the WIBs. It also benefits from the extensive federal awards brought to CT by the WIBs such as the \$20M in federal H1B programming currently being delivered across the state.

The most recent fiscal year serves as an ideal example of our partnership. The state allocated \$450,000 in the IWT line item to be administered by CT DOL and implemented regionally by the five WIBs. Through effective WIB connections with area businesses, employers invested both release time and matching funds in the program for a total of \$1,152,835—more than doubling the state's investment! In total, these resources provided training to over 2000 CT employees located at 98 different employers. State funds were fully obligated within the first six months.

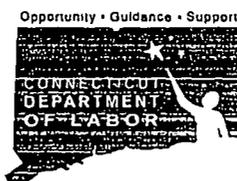
We support program alignment and the efficient use of resources. Accordingly, we believe the most efficient use of increasingly scarce system resources occurs when WIBs and CT DOL run this program in partnership at the regional level. For example, in the Eastern Region, our Workforce Investment Board issues the announcement of the IWT opportunity with application, regional priorities, and closing date. Our Business Services Unit comprised of multiple Chambers of Commerce is joined by CT DOL to market the opportunity to regional businesses based on geographic distribution. The Team reviews the application for accuracy prior to submission. Points are awarded for things such as: new company, training low wage workers, giving wage increase at completion, STEM or high skill training, company with less than 100 employees, etc. A Review Team composed of the DOL Regional Director, two regional Economic Development agencies, and two BWIB Board

members then meet to review the scoring and make the final decisions on funding the proposals. We believe this type of collaborative model between the CTDOL and EWIB has served both employers and workers well and positions the workforce system to respond in real time to the demands of our local business community.

We also believe that the regions and their local partners should determine the criteria for investments based on the needs of their employers and workers. For instance, points might be given for new companies rather than the proposed policy which calls for 50% of the resources to go to companies who haven't receiving funds in the last three years. Again local areas are in the best position to determine whether a company should get IWT resources in a given year. For instance, a hospital might train different types of workers in each year or might make small investments over time rather than one large training agreement. The 50% rule would minimize the company's ability to participate in the program and potentially diminish opportunities for workers both incumbent and potential new hires.

The CT Workforce Development Council looks forward to the opportunity to continue to partner with the CTDOL to operate the incumbent worker training program and to shepherd the investments to promote economic growth for our state.

On behalf of the CT Workforce Development Council, contact William Villano, Director of the Workforce Alliance at 203-624-4030 or wvillano@workforcealliance.biz

 Connecticut Department of Labor


 Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner

Public Hearing Testimony of
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 26, 2013

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley, Representative Smith and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding House Bill 6433, AAC Technical and Other Changes to the Labor Department Statutes. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Labor Commissioner.

I am here to speak in support of this bill which makes technical changes to DOL statutes and repeals obsolete statutes and reports. A summary of the changes follows:

- Sections 1 and 2 make a technical change to CGS 31-232b which is our Extended Benefits (EB) law. The EB Program provides 13 to 20 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to states experiencing high levels of unemployment. Although our current EB statute correctly conforms with the federal 13 week definition of this program, an inconsistency exists in two minor sections of the law that incorrectly states the time period of "three months" instead of "thirteen weeks". This technical change corrects that oversight by simply deleting "three months" in those two minor sections and inserting "thirteen weeks".
- Sections 3 and 4 amend CGS 31-51xx and CGS 31-51aaa which improves funding opportunities for DOL's Individual Development Account (IDA) customers and reflects current practice. As the law currently stands, a participant in the Connecticut Individual Development Account (IDA) Program can receive a maximum of \$3,000 in matching funds if they save the required amount of money in their IDA. However, they can only receive \$1,000 in match per calendar year. Propose to eliminate the \$1,000 per year cap for matching funds while leaving in place the existing \$3,000 maximum cap for matching funds over the life of the program
- Section 5 repeals CGS 31-3g(d) which is the DOL displaced homemaker program. This program has been de-funded by the Legislature and no longer exists.
- Section 6 repeals CGS 31-51qq DOL report regarding the aggregate usage of FMLA by employees. It was an extra burden on employers to report the aggregate usage of FMLA by its employees so DOL tried to collect the data electronically in order to avoid the printing and mailing costs. However, the response by employers was very low so the data collected was not helpful because it was not a true representation of the aggregate usage of FMLA by Connecticut employees

- Sections 7, 8 and 9 repeal CGS 31-57a DOL report regarding the awarding of contracts to National Labor Relations Act violators. The CT DOL does not have any jurisdiction over the National Labor Relations Act and we do not compile such a list.
- Section 10 amends 31-57h to include the Commissioners of Insurance Department and Consumer Protection on the joint enforcement commission on employee misclassification.
- Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 repeal CGS 31-61 which is the DOL wage board because it no longer exists. These duties are now performed by DOL's Wage and Workplace Standards investigators.
- Section 18 amends CGS 31-311 providing for the merger of the Twenty-First Century Skill Training program into the Incumbent Worker Training Program. It is a streamlining move to make the programs easy to understand for employers and workers. Under the current construct, there are 6 different applications in CT for Incumbent Worker Training funds. By merging, it creates one application and program that can be used throughout the state. Each region will use the same application and criteria. What exists now is confusing and cumbersome. It is difficult to measure impact with 6 different processes. Further, it appropriates 10% of funds for the program for the funding of support services for the incumbent worker. Allow 10% of the Incumbent Worker Training funds to pay for support services for the incumbent worker (i.e. transportation & childcare).
- Section 19 repeals obsolete statute sections on religious discrimination in CT (CGS 53-303e (b)(d)).
- Section 20 repeals various statutes and reports.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

S - 665

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL. 56
PART 14
4130 - 4472**

Will you remark? I'm sorry.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 24, Calendar 618, substitute for House Bill Number 6433, AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT STATUTES, Favorable Report of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Good evening, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill as amended in the House.

THE CHAIR:

Motion on acceptance and passage in conjunction with the House. Will you remark?

SENATOR OSTEN:

Madam President, basically, this bill just provides technical changes to the Labor Department statutes, streamlining administration and certain programs and making other federally mandated conforming changes.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Seeing none, Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

If, if no objection, I would move this to the Consent Calendar.

Seeing no objections, seeing no objections, so
ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 37, Calendar 351, House Bill Number 6416, AN
ACT CONCERNING STATE CHARTER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, it's
been amended by Senate "A" and a Favorable Report of
the Committee on Labor and Public Employees.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Thank you very much, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable
Report and passage of the bill as previously amended
here. It is, it's also been vetted by the Education
Committee. This bill --

THE CHAIR:

Senator, wait. The motion is on acceptance and, and
passage. Will you remark further.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Okay. I'm sorry.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR OSTEN:

I'm rushing.

THE CHAIR:

I don't blame you.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Madam President, if the other items marked go would now be marked passed retaining their place on the Calendar, and if the Clerk would read the items on the second Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on that second Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On the second Consent Calendar for the day, page 6, Calendar 348, House Bill 5767; Calendar 352, House Bill Number 6452; also on page 6, Calendar 354, House Bill 6388; on page 7, Calendar 368, Senate Bill 900; page 18, Calendar 573, House Bill 6524; page 20, Calendar 591, House Bill 5727; Calendar 592, House Bill 5979; Calendar 593, House Bill 6523; Calendar 594, House Bill 6596; page 21, Calendar 605, House Bill 6567; page 23, Calendar 615, House Bill 6638; on page 24, Calendar 618, House Bill 6433; and Calendar 619, House Bill 6482; on page 33, Calendar 125, Senate Bill 906; and page 39, Calendar 422, House Bill 5718.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote. Oops, hold on a moment.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Madam President.

Just I wanted to indicate did we get the item on Calendar page 33 --

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

-- Calendar 125, Senate Bill 906?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Good. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yeah.

SENATOR LOONEY:

I appreciate it and move that we vote the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on Consent Calendar 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

The machine is open.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

No problem.

Senator Maynard.

Thank you.

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the second Consent Calendar for today,

Total Number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. The Consent Calendar, second Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President, first of all for a, a journal notation.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, Senator Coleman was absent today due to illness. We hope that he will be back with us next week, missed votes today. And also for a point of personal privilege, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you.

Madam President, two of our wonderful caucus colleagues on the, the Democratic staff in great