



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

Document Name	OWS – State Workforce Board
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Legislative Liaison	Billy Huang, Senior Policy Advisor
Division Requesting This Proposal	Office of Workforce Strategy
Drafter	Lindsey Leung, Staff Attorney

Title of Proposal	An Act Concerning Modifications to the Governor’s Workforce Council
Statutory Reference, if any	General Statutes § 31-3i
Brief Summary and Statement of Purpose	<p>Section 101(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (“WIOA”) requires a specific composition of members on each state’s state workforce board. The Governor’s Workforce Council (“GWC”) is currently designated as the State of Connecticut’s state workforce board. Every four years, each state’s Governor is required to submit a WIOA Unified or Combined State Plan in order to receive federal funding under the six core programs of WIOA. Our report received only conditional approval because of two main concerns with the composition of our board.</p> <p>First, federal WIOA provisions require that the lead State officials with primary responsibility for the core programs be on the state workforce board. One of the core programs is the State Vocational Rehabilitation Program. In its review of our submitted Unified State Plan, the U.S. Department of Education noted that either the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services or the Director of the Bureau of</p>



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

Education and Services for the Blind must serve on the board in order to represent vocational rehabilitation as one of the core programs.

Second, federal statute requires that of those members appointed by the Governor to the state workforce board, a majority of them must be business representatives. In its review of our submitted Unified State Plan, the U.S.

Department of Labor noted its concerns that the GWC's composition does not currently meet this requirement. This imbalance was, in part, caused by the addition of members to the council through state legislation passed during the 2023 and 2024 sessions.

Ultimately, if we are unable to receive full approval because we are out of compliance, our federal dollars will be at stake. This not only impacts OWS, but the Connecticut Departments of Labor, Education, and Aging and Disability Services, the agencies responsible for administering the core programs.

Under this legislative proposal, more business representatives are added to the GWC to create the majority needed for federal compliance. The proposal also moves the member who is an expert in residential construction, who typically is a business representative, from their own category to fall under the business representative category so this position can count toward the majority. The proposal also adds a Vocational Rehabilitation director. Finally, the proposal adds a provision to ensure that any further modifications to the GWC's composition will stay in compliance with federal parameters. Because this proposal suggests the addition of more members to an already large council in order to maintain balance with federal statute, we



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

	also include a provision that caps its overall size so it remains a workable board.
How does this proposal relate to the agency's mission?	<p>OWS is an executive branch agency that serves as the administrative staff to the Governor's Workforce Council (GWC). OWS is led by the Chief Workforce Officer, whose responsibilities as defined by CGS 4-124w, includes <i>"(1) Be the principal advisor for workforce development policy, strategy and coordination to the Governor; (2) Be the lead state official for the development of employment and training strategies and initiatives;"</i></p> <p>Our vision is to make, "Workforce work for everyone." Our mission is to ensure all individuals, regardless of their background, have a seamless and supported pathway from education and training to a good job, and that every business has the talent they need to innovate and thrive.</p> <p>The Office of Workforce Strategy supports the GWC which is mandated, by statute, to carry out the duties and responsibilities of a state workforce board pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. This proposal would allow the Agency to carry out this mission and ensure that the board's composition is compliant with federal law.</p>



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Summarize sections in groups where appropriate

Section 1: Amends General Statutes § 31-31 as follows: (1) adds six more business representative members; (2) adds as a member to the GWC a director of either the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services or the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind, which are the two designated state units charged with administering vocational rehabilitation services; (3) calls for the Governor to appoint this director as well as all Commissioners referenced in this section, in accordance with the WIOA provisions; (4) moves the member who is an expert in residential construction to count as a business representative; (5) ensures that any further modifications to the GWC's composition will not run afoul with federal guidelines; and (6) sets a limit on the overall number of members.

BACKGROUND

Origin of Proposal

☒ New Proposal

☐ Resubmission

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Please consider the following, if applicable:

Have there been changes in federal/state laws or regulations that make this legislation necessary?	Public Act 23-93 (adding two new members to the Governor's Workforce Council who are not business representatives); Public Act 24-41 (adding one new member to the Governor's Workforce Council who is not a business representative)
Has this proposal or a similar proposal	



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

been implemented in other states? If yes, to what result?	
Have certain constituencies called for this proposal?	The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor

INTERAGENCY IMPACT

List each affected agency. Copy the table as needed.

☐ Check here if this proposal does NOT impact other agencies

1. Agency Name	Office of the Governor
Agency Contact (name, title)	Tom Scanlon, Director of Appointments
Date Contacted	
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Open Issues, if any	

2. Agency Name	Department of Labor
Agency Contact (name, title)	Dante Bartolomeo, Commissioner
Date Contacted	
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

Open Issues, if any	

3. Agency Name	Department of Aging and Disability Services
Agency Contact (name, title)	Amy Porter, Commissioner
Date Contacted	
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Open Issues, if any	

4. Agency Name	State Department of Education
Agency Contact (name, title)	Charlene Russell-Tucker, Commissioner
Date Contacted	
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Open Issues, if any	



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

FISCAL IMPACT

Include the section number(s) responsible for the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact

[X] Check here if this proposal does NOT have a fiscal impact

State	
Municipal (Include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)	
Federal	
Additional notes	

MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

If applicable, please describe the anticipated measurable outcomes and the data that will be used to track those outcomes. Include the section number(s) responsible for those outcomes

[X] Check here if this proposal does NOT lead to any measurable outcomes

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ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW?

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Section 1. Sec. 31-3i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective upon passage*):

(a) Pursuant to Section 101 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, the members of the Governor's Workforce Council shall be:

(1) The Governor;

(2) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and a member of the Senate, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(3) ~~[Twenty-four]~~ Thirty members, appointed by the Governor, who (A) are 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; (B) represent businesses or organizations representing businesses that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupation in the state; or (C) have been nominated by state business organizations or business trade associations. At a minimum, at least one such member shall represent small businesses, as defined by the United States Small Business Administration, and at least one such member shall be an expert in residential construction.

(4) The Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, ~~[and]~~ the Chief Workforce Officer and a director of a vocational rehabilitation program within the Department of Aging and Disability Services, each appointed by the Governor, or their respective designees;

(5) Four representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by state labor federations and appointed by the Governor;

(6) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is a member of a labor organization or a training director from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or, if no such joint program exists in the state, such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the state;



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

[(7)] An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is an expert in residential construction;]

[(8)] (7) Five members, appointed by the Governor, who represent community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing employment, training, or education, including one representative of a community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885, and one representative of a philanthropic organization;

[(9)] (8) A representative from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, a representative from The University of Connecticut and a representative from a nonprofit institution of higher education in the state, each appointed by the Governor;

[(10)] (9) A representative from a regional vocational-technical school and a representative from a regional agricultural science and technology school, each appointed by the Governor;

[(11)] (10) A certified teacher employed by a local or regional board of education, appointed by the Governor;

[(12)] (11) Two superintendents of a local or regional board of education, appointed by the Governor;

[(13)] (12) Two chief elected officials of municipalities, appointed by the Governor; and

[(14)] (13) Two members of the public, who are enrolled in or who have recently completed a nondegree workforce training program, appointed by the Governor.

(b) All appointments shall be made in a manner that reflects the diversity of the state, including, but not limited to, geographic, gender identity, racial and ethnic diversity.

(c) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the Governor's Workforce Council from among the members appointed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section. The Chief Workforce Officer shall serve as the vice-chairperson of the council.

(d) The Governor's Workforce Council may establish an executive committee composed of members appointed by the chairperson. The vice-chairperson of the council shall be a member of any such executive committee. The council may delegate to the executive committee any powers of the council except those powers that are required by law to be exercised by the council. The chairperson may also appoint ad hoc committees, workgroups or task forces to assist the council as appropriate, and shall consult with the vice-chairperson and the legislative



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: OWS – State Workforce Board

members of the council in making appointments to such ad hoc committees, workgroups or task forces.

(e) Any appointments made to the council prior to October 1, 2021, shall expire on that date.

(f) The council shall meet not less than once every calendar quarter.

(g) The Governor shall establish bylaws for the council pursuant to 20 CFR 679.110(d), which shall include, but need not be limited to, term limitations for members and how appointments will be made.

(h) Any modification to the membership of the Governor’s Workforce Council shall be in conformance with 29 USC § 3111, as amended from time to time. The Governor’s Workforce Council shall consist of an odd number of members. In no event shall the Governor’s Workforce Council exceed sixty-one members.