# Department of Labor 2014 Legislative Proposals New Policy Initiatives

Bill Title
AAC Pending Wage Enforcement Actions
AAC an Exemption from Court Filing Fees for Wage Executions Filed by the Labor Department
AAC Volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Companies and the Definition of Employer Under the Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health Act (proposed last session HB 6434)
AAC an Adjustment to the Method for Determining the Maximum Weekly Benefit Rate
AAC Homemaker Services and Homemaker-Companion Agencies (proposed last session HB 6432)
AAC Increasing the Penalties Due to False or Misleading Declarations, Statements or Representations (proposed last session SB #926)
AA Clarifying the Apprenticeship Tax Credit for Construction Trades
AAC the Filing Fee at the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration (proposed last session HB 6333)
AAC the Disclosure of Performance Evaluations of Members of the State Board of Labor Relations (SBLR) and the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration (SBMA) (proposed last session HB #6449)
AAC Permitting the Department of Labor to Provide Certain Confidential Department of Labor Information to Access Health CT

#### **Technical Revisions**

#### Bill Title

AAC Technical and Other Changes to Department of Labor Statutes (merge 2 CETC reports in 31-3h; reinstate the report card concerning matters related to employment and training in 31-3bb; and eliminate section 31-77 which requires labor organizations to file annual reports with the Labor Department)

(12/17/13)

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 12113\_DOL\_wageenforcement

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal - 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Labor

Liaison: Marisa Morello
Phone: (860) 263-6502
E-mail: Marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Wage and Workplace Standards

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Jennifer Devine

# Title of Proposal AAC Pending Wage Enforcement Actions

Statutory Reference

31-76a

**Proposal Summary** The exemption in the proposed legislation would safeguard the integrity of wage investigations while evidence pertaining to the nature of a possible criminal or civil violation is being acquired by the agency. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, such information could be disclosed to the public within the parameters of the Freedom of Information Act, or be subject to the rules of the criminal or civil courts.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (1) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?

  No
- (2) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)? **Unknown**
- (3) Have certain constituencies called for this action? No
- (4) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session? Confidential information would be disclosed to the subject of wage investigations prior to a determination of whether to pursue civil or criminal action.

•	Origin of Proposal	X_ New Proposal	Resubmission

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (1) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's
- (2) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?
- (3) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?
- (4) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?

# PROPOSAL IMPACT

Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)
Agency Name:
Agency Contact (name, title, phone):
Date Contacted:
Approve of Proposal YESNOTalks Ongoing
Summany of Affected Agency's Comments
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO
• <b>Fiscal Impact</b> (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated
impact)
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
None
State
None
None
Federal
None
Additional notes on fiscal impact

Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

The exemption in the proposed legislation would safeguard the integrity of wage investigations while evidence pertaining to the nature of a possible criminal or civil violation is being acquired by the agency. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, such information could be disclosed to the public within the parameters of the Freedom of Information Act, or be subject to the rules of the criminal or civil courts.

## **Insert fully drafted bill here**

#### AN ACT CONCERNING PENDING WAGE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.

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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 31-76a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (from passage, and applicable to all requests for records under chapter 14 of the general statutes pending on or made after said date):

- (a) On receipt of a complaint for nonpayment of wages or a violation of the provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-288, the Labor Commissioner, the director of minimum wage and wage enforcement agents of the Labor Department shall have power to enter, during usual business hours, the place of business or employment of any employer to determine compliance with the wage payment laws or subsection (g) of section 31-288, and for such purpose may examine payroll and other records and interview employees, call hearings, administer oaths, take testimony under oath and take depositions in the manner provided by sections 52-148a to 52-148e, inclusive. For purposes of subdivision (5) of section 1-200 of the general statutes, any records or documents created or obtained during the pendency of an investigation conducted pursuant to sections 31-76a and 31-59 of the general statutes shall not be deemed to be public records or files.
- (b) The commissioner or the director, for such purpose, may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and records. Any employer or any officer or agent of any employer, corporation, firm or partnership who wilfully fails to furnish time and wage records as required by law to the commissioner, the director of minimum wage or any wage enforcement agent upon request, or who refuses to admit the commissioner, the director or such agent to the place of employment of such employer, corporation, firm or partnership, or who hinders or delays the commissioner, the director or such agent in the performance of the commissioner's, the director's or such agent's duties in the enforcement of this section shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred fifty dollars. Each day of such failure to furnish the time and wage records to the commissioner, the director or such agent shall constitute a separate offense, and each day of refusal to

admit, of hindering or of delaying the commissioner, the director or such agent shall constitute a separate offense.

- (c)(1) If the commissioner determines, after an investigation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, that an employer is in violation of subsection (g) of section 31-288, the commissioner shall issue, not later than seventytwo hours after making such determination, a stop work order against the employer requiring the cessation of all business operations of such employer. Such stop work order shall be issued only against the employer found to be in violation of subsection (g) of section 31-288 and only as to the specific place of business or employment for which the violation exists. Such order shall be effective when served upon the employer or at the place of business or employment. A stop work order may be served at a place of business or employment by posting a copy of the stop work order in a conspicuous location at the place of business or employment. Such order shall remain in effect until the commissioner issues an order releasing the stop work order upon a finding by the commissioner that the employer has come into compliance with the requirements of subsection (b) of section 31-284, or after a hearing held pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.
- (2) Any employer against which a stop work order is issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection may request a hearing before the commissioner. Such request shall be made in writing to the commissioner not more than ten days after the issuance of such order. Such hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.<sup>1</sup>
- (3) Stop work orders and any penalties imposed under section 31-288 or 31-69a against a corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship for a violation of subsection (g) of section 31-288 shall be effective against any successor entity that has one or more of the same principals or officers as the corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship against which the stop work order was issued and are engaged in the same or equivalent trade or activity.
- (4) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, necessary to carry out this subsection.

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc):

12113\_DOL\_Exemption court filing fees

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:
DOL
Liaison: Marisa Morello
Phone: 263 6502
E-mail: Marisa.morello@ct.gov
Lead agency division requesting this proposal:
Unemployment Insurance Benefits
Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal:
Heidi Lane

# Title of Proposal

AAC an Exemption from Court Filings Fees for Wage Executions Filed by the Labor Department

Statutory Reference 52-259a CGS

#### **Proposal Summary**

To exempt the \$100 court filing fee when DOL electronically files wage executions for overpaid unemployment benefits.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

• Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (5) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary? No
- (6) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)? Unknown
- (7) Have certain constituencies called for this action?

•	Origin of Proposal	_X New Proposal	Resubmission	
(8)	What would happen if this was n Approximately \$180,000.00 in fil		rd service fees would continue to be spent	

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (5) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?
- (6) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?
- (7) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?
- (8) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?

PROPOSAL IMPACT
Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)
Agency Name: Judicial
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Deb Fuller, Director External Affairs, (860) 757-2270
Stephen Ment, Deputy Director External Affairs, (860) 757-2270
Date Contacted: 12/18/13
Approve of Proposal YESNOXTalks Ongoing
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO
• Figer I beneat / close to dealer the manual control that the course the fixed toward and the control of the
<ul> <li>Fiscal Impact (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)</li> </ul>
impacty
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
State
A savings of approximately \$180,000.00 in filing fees and \$4000.00 in credit card service fees.
Federal
Additional notes on fiscal impact
Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)
DOL files approximately 1800 wage executions a year. If the filing fee were waived, it
would save approximately \$180,000 per year. If the filing fee is waived then the
Department will not be charged the credit card service fee which would save an
additional \$4000 per year.

# **Insert fully drafted bill here**

Sec. 52-259a. Exemptions from certain fee requirements. (a) Any member of the Division of Criminal Justice or the Division of Public Defender Services, any employee of the Judicial Department, acting in the performance of such employee's duties, the Attorney General, an assistant attorney general, the Consumer Counsel, any attorney employed by the Office of Consumer Counsel within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Department of Revenue Services, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, the Freedom of Information Commission, the Board of Labor Relations, the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, the Office of the Victim Advocate, the Department of Social Services or the Department of Children and Families, the Labor Department or any attorney appointed by the court to assist any of them or to act for any of them in a special case or cases, while acting in such attorney's official capacity or in the capacity for which such attorney was appointed, shall not be required to pay the fees specified in sections 52-258, 52-259, and 52-259c, subsection (a) of section 52-356a, subsection (a) of section 52-361a, section 52-367a, subsection (b) of section 52-367b and subsection (n) of section 46b-231.

- (b) (1) The Immigration and Naturalization Service shall not be required to pay any fees specified in section 52-259 for any certified copy of any criminal record.
- (2) The Office of the Federal Public Defender shall not be required to pay any fees specified in section 52-259 for any certified copy of any criminal record.
- (3) An employee of the United States Probation Office, acting in the performance of such employee's duties, shall not be required to pay any fee specified in section 52-259 for any certified copy of any criminal record.

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): DOL2014OSHA.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal - 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:
Department of Labor

Liaison: Marisa Morello
Phone: (860) 263-6502
E-mail: Marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Connecticut OSHA

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Anne Rugens

# Title of Proposal: AAC Volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Companies and the Definition of Employer Under the Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health Act

**Statutory Reference** 

CGS § 31-367

#### **Proposal Summary**

This proposal incorporates the Department's long-standing position and modifies the definition of "employer" in the Department of Labor's Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health Act to specifically include "volunteer fire departments" and "volunteer ambulance companies." This proposal is technical in nature and clarifies the Connecticut Department of Labor's jurisdiction over volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance companies in the wake of Mayfield v. Goshen Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., 301 Conn. 739 (2011).

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

• Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (9) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary? NO
- (10) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)?
- (11) Have certain constituencies called for this action?
- (12) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session?
  CONN-OSHA would not be able to protect certain volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance companies.

•	Origin of Proposal	New Proposal	X_ Resubmission	

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (9) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package? The Labor Committee changed the original DOL language with a JFS that we could not support (11-0). JF'd out of Public Safety 8-0. Died on House Calendar
- (10) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal? DOL negotiated the revised language during the end of session to address concerns which is represented here.
- (11) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?

  Representatives Craig Miner, Roberta Willis and Vince Candelora assisted in drafting a bi-partisan compromise during the 2012 session. Senator Andrew Chapin still had some concerns in the State Senate because he represented the Town of Goshen.

What was the last action taken during the past legislative session Died on the House Calendar

#### PROPOSAL IMPACT

Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: NONE Agency Contact (name, title, phone):
Date Contacted:
Approve of Proposal YESNOTalks Ongoing
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments
N/A
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO
<ul> <li>Fiscal Impact (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)</li> </ul>
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
None
State
None
Federal
None
Additional notes on fiscal impact

Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

CONN-OSHA enforces state occupational safety and health regulations as they apply to state and municipal employees. This proposal incorporates the Department's long-standing position and modifies the definition of "employer" in the Department of Labor's Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health Act to specifically include "volunteer fire departments" and "volunteer ambulance companies." Although this proposal is technical in nature in that it clarifies the Connecticut Department of Labor's jurisdiction over volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance companies in the wake of Mayfield v. Goshen Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., 301 Conn. 739 (2011), it does have a major policy impact. Specifically, Federal OSHA has determined that it does not have jurisdiction over volunteer fire departments or volunteer ambulance companies because of the volunteer departments' affiliation with municipalities. Federal OSHA only has jurisdiction over private entities and does not have jurisdiction over volunteer fire departments or volunteer ambulance companies because of its determination that there is no employer/employee relationship. Without passage of this legislation, certain volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance companies would not be protected under either state or federal law. Therefore, leaving the safety and health of many volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers unprotected.

# **Insert fully drafted bill here**

# AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND AMBULANCE COMPANIES AND THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER UNDER THE STATE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT.

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

Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 31-367 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

- (d) "Employer" means the state and any political subdivision thereof, and any volunteer fire department and any volunteer ambulance company;
- Sec. 2. Section 31-369 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:
- (a) This chapter applies to all employers, employees and places of employment in the state except the following: (1) Employees of the United States government; [and] (2) working conditions of employees over which federal agencies other than the United States Department of Labor exercise statutory authority to prescribe or enforce standards or regulations affecting occupational safety and health; and (3) any volunteer fire department or volunteer ambulance company that can demonstrate such department or company is regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (15 USC 651 et seq.).

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to supersede or in any manner affect any workers' compensation law or to enlarge, diminish or affect in any manner common law or statutory rights, duties or liabilities of employers or employees, under any law with respect to injuries, diseases or death of employees arising out of and in the course of employment.

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc):

#### 12113 DOL MethodMaxBenefitRate

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:

DOL

Liaison: Marisa Morello

Phone: 263-6502

E-mail:Marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal:

Research

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal:

Heidi Lane

#### Title of Proposal

# AAC an Adjustment to the Method for Determining the Maximum Weekly Benefit Rate

**Statutory Reference** 

### **Proposal Summary**

To utilize a method of computation of the max benefit rate that more accurately reflects the average wages paid in CT.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (13) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?

  NO
- (14) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)? Yes, most states calculate their maximum weekly benefit rate by this method.
- (15) Have certain constituencies called for this action?
- (16) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session? A highly variable computation of the maximum weekly benefit rate would continue.

#### • Origin of Proposal \_\_\_ Resubmission

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (12) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?
- (13) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?
- (14) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?
- (15) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?

# PROPOSAL IMPACT

• Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name:
Agency Contact (name, title, phone):
Date Contacted:
Approve of ProposalYESNOTalks Ongoing
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments
Summary of Afficeted Agency 5 Comments
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO
• Fiscal Impact /places include the property section that courses the fiscal impact and the anticipated
<ul> <li>Fiscal Impact (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)</li> </ul>
impacti
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
None
Notice
State
None
Federal
None
Additional notes on fiscal impact
Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)
To utilize a method of computation of the max benefit rate that more accurately reflects
the average wages paid in CT. Currently CT uses the sample-based BLS manufacturing
wage which is highly variable and no longer reflects the average wage in CT due to the
loss of manufacturing in CT. Further, if certain large manufacturers do not participate in
the voluntary survey, the results are skewed.
the voluntary survey, the results are skewed.

Sec. 31-231a. Total unemployment benefit rate. (a) For a construction worker identified pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with

- subsection (c) of this section, the total unemployment benefit rate for the individual's benefit year commencing on or after April 1, 1996, shall be an amount equal to one twenty-sixth, rounded to the next lower dollar, of his total wages paid during that quarter of his current benefit year's base period in which wages were the highest but not less than fifteen dollars nor more than the maximum benefit rate as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
- (b) For an individual not included in subsection (a) of this section, the individual's total unemployment benefit rate for his benefit year commencing after September 30, 1967, shall be an amount equal to one twenty-sixth, rounded to the next lower dollar, of the average of his total wages, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 31-222, paid during the two quarters of his current benefit year's base period in which such wages were highest but not less than fifteen dollars nor more than one hundred fifty-six dollars in any benefit year commencing on or after the first Sunday in July, 1982, nor more than sixty per cent rounded to the next lower dollar of the average wage of [production and related] all workers in the state in any benefit year commencing on or after the first Sunday in October, 1983, and provided the maximum benefit rate in any benefit year commencing on or after the first Sunday in October, 1988, shall not increase more than eighteen dollars in any benefit year, such increase to be effective as of the first Sunday in October of such year. The average wage of production and related workers in the state shall be determined by the administrator, on or before August fifteenth annually, as of the year ended the previous [June thirtieth] March thirty-first to be effective during the benefit year commencing on or after the first Sunday of the following October and shall be so determined as the mean wage of all workers in Connecticut calculated from the Connecticut Ouarterly Census of Employment and Wages or such other method as determined by the Administrator that accurately reflects the mean wage of all workers in **Connecticut.** [in accordance with the standards for the determination of average production wages established by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.]
- (c) The administrator shall adopt regulations pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section. Such regulations shall specify the National Council on Compensation Insurance employee classification codes which identify construction workers covered by subsection (a) of this section and specify the manner and format in which employers shall report the identification of such workers to the administrator.

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): DOL2014homemaker.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal - 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:
Department of Labor

Liaison: Marisa Morello
Phone: (860) 263-6502
E-mail: Marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal:
Executive Administration

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal:
Heidi Lane

#### Title of Proposal

#### **AAC Homemaker Services and Homemaker Companion Agencies**

Statutory Reference New and CGS 31-275

#### **Proposal Summary**

To designate a homemaker-companion agency, registry or homemaker-home health agency as the employer of individuals providing certain services to consumers for the purposes of unemployment compensation, wages and workers' compensation, and remove liability for such individual's personal injuries arising out of and in the course of employment from the consumer.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (17) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?

  No
- (18) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)?
- (19) Have certain constituencies called for this action? Elderly population
- (20) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session? The individual clients receiving the services of a companion or homemaker would be responsible for the wage payments, unemployment and workers' compensation payments.

•	Origin of Proposal	New Proposal	Resubmission

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (16) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package? Strong opposition from Registries, opposition from Norwalk Delegation
- (17) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal? Further discussions with DSS needed
- (18) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation? Commissioner Edith Prague, Companions and Homemakers
- (19) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session? Labor JF vote 6-4, Died on House Calendar

# PROPOSAL IMPACT

Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)
Agency Name: Workers' Compensation Commission
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Connie Rue-Yatko, Legislative Liaison (860) 493-1580
Date Contacted: 12/18/13
Date Confacted. 12/16/13
Approve of Proposal YESNOX_Talks Ongoing
A 37 D ( CD 11' II 1/1
Agency Name: Department of Public Health
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Jill Kentfield, Legislative Liaison (860) 509-7280/ Liz Keyes, EA,
(860)509-7246
Date Contacted: 12/18/13
Dute Contacted: 12/10/10
A CD 1 MDG NO METHOL:
Approve of Proposal YESNOX_Talks Ongoing
A 37 D ( CO '10 ' -
Agency Name: Department of Social Services
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Heather Rossi, Legislative Liaison (860) 424-5646
Date Contacted: 12/18/13
A CD 1 VICO NO V Talles On a large and families
Approve of Proposal YESNOX_Talks Ongoing and further
negotiations needed
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments
•
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO
Will there need to be raiding negotiation 123
#P111
• <b>Fiscal Impact</b> (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated
impact)
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
None
State
State

None
Federal
None
Additional notes on fiscal impact

• Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

This proposal would ensure that the consumer receiving the services of a homemaker-companion would not be responsible for wage payments, unemployment tax and workers' compensation for the individuals who are providing services to the consumer.

# Insert fully drafted bill here

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2015*) For purposes of chapter 567 of the general statutes, a homemaker-companion agency, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, registry, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, or homemaker-home health aide agency, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, shall be deemed the employer of an individual such agency or registry supplied or referred to a consumer to provide (1) homemaker services, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, (2) companion services, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, or (3) homemaker-home health aide services, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, and such agency or registry shall be liable for the payment of unemployment contributions for such individual during the duration of time he or she provides said services to the consumer.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2015) For purposes of chapter 558 of the general statutes, a homemaker-companion agency, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, registry, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, or homemaker-home health aide agency, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, shall be deemed the employer of an individual such agency or registry supplied or referred to a consumer to provide (1) homemaker services, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, (2) companion services, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, or (3) homemaker-home health aide services, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, and such agency or registry shall be responsible for the payment of wages to such

individual during the duration of time he or she provides said services to the consumer.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2015) (a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Homemaker-companion agency" means homemaker-companion agency, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes;
- (2) "Registry" means registry, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes;
- (3) "Homemaker-home health aide agency" means homemaker-home health aide agency, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes;
- (4) "Homemaker services" means homemaker services, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes;
- (5) "Companion services" means companion services, as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes;
- (6) "Homemaker-home health aide services" means homemaker-home health aide services, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes;
- (7) "Consumer" means an individual receiving homemaker services, companion services or homemaker-home health aid services from a homemaker-companion agency, registry or homemaker-home health aide agency; and
- (8) "Covered provider" means a homemaker-companion agency, registry, or homemaker-home health aide agency providing homemaker services, companion services or homemaker-home health aid services.
- (b) For purposes of chapter 568 of the general statutes, an individual supplied or referred by a covered provider to a consumer to provide homemaker services, companion services or homemaker-home health aid services shall be deemed an employee of (1) except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, such covered provider, regardless of the number of hours worked, and shall be liable for compensation under chapter 568 of the general statutes for such individual during the duration of time he or she provides said services to the consumer, and (2) such consumer solely for the purposes of subsection (a) of section 31-284 of the general statutes, and such consumer shall be deemed to be in compliance with subsection (b) of said section, except that the requirements of subsection (b) of said section 31-284 shall be the responsibility of the covered provider.
- (c) The consumer's exemption from liability under subsection (a) of section 31-284 of the general statutes, including any liability for third- party lawsuits

commenced pursuant to subsection (a) of section 31-293 of the general statutes, shall be extended to (1) members of the consumer's immediate family or household, and (2) any individual acting as a conservator of the person, as defined in section 45a-644 of the general statutes or acting under other legal authority to make decisions for the consumer regarding their medical or personal care.

- Sec. 4. Subdivision (9) of section 31-275 of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- (9) (A) "Employee" means any person who:
- (i) Has entered into or works under any contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer, whether the contract contemplated the performance of duties within or without the state;
- (ii) Is a sole proprietor or business partner who accepts the provisions of this chapter in accordance with subdivision (10) of this section;
- (iii) Is elected to serve as a member of the General Assembly of this state;
- (iv) Is a salaried officer or paid member of any police department or fire department;
- (v) Is a volunteer police officer, whether the officer is designated as special or auxiliary, upon vote of the legislative body of the town, city or borough in which the officer serves;
- (vi) Is an elected or appointed official or agent of any town, city or borough in the state, upon vote of the proper authority of the town, city or borough, including the elected or appointed official or agent, irrespective of the manner in which he or she is appointed or employed. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as affecting any existing rights as to pensions which such persons or their dependents had on July 1, 1927, or as preventing any existing custom of paying the full salary of any such person during disability due to injury arising out of and in the course of his or her employment;
- (vii) Is an officer or enlisted person of the National Guard or other armed forces of the state called to active duty by the Governor while performing his or her active duty service; or
- (viii) Is elected to serve as a probate judge for a probate district established in section 45a-2.

- (B) "Employee" shall not be construed to include:
- (i) Any person to whom articles or material are given to be treated in any way on premises not under the control or management of the person who gave them out;
- (ii) One whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business;
- (iii) A member of the employer's family dwelling in his house; but, if, in any contract of insurance, the wages or salary of a member of the employer's family dwelling in his house is included in the payroll on which the premium is based, then that person shall, if he sustains an injury arising out of and in the course of his employment, be deemed an employee and compensated in accordance with the provisions of this chapter;
- (iv) Any person engaged in any type of service in or about a private dwelling provided he is not regularly employed by the owner or occupier over twenty-six hours per week; except that those providing "homemaker services", or "companion services" as those terms are defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes or "homemaker-home health aide services", as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes to a "consumer" as defined in Public Act 14 –XX section 3 and who are in the employ of a "homemaker-home health aide agency", as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, "homemaker-companion agency" or "registry" as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes, shall not be subject to this subsection.
- (v) An employee of a corporation who is a corporate officer and who elects to be excluded from coverage under this chapter by notice in writing to his employer and to the commissioner; or
- (vi) Any person who is not a resident of this state but is injured in this state during the course of his employment, unless such person (I) works for an employer who has a place of employment or a business facility located in this state at which such person spends at least fifty per cent of his employment time, or (II) works for an employer pursuant to an employment contract to be performed primarily in this state.
- Sec. 5. Subdivision (10) of section 31-275 of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- §31-275(10) "Employer" means any person, corporation, limited liability company, firm, partnership, voluntary association, joint stock association, the state and any public corporation, any "homemaker-companion agency", "registry" as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes and "homemaker-home health aide agency", as defined in

section 19a-490 of the general statutes which provide, "homemaker services" or "companions services" as defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes or "homemaker-home health aide services", as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes to a "consumer" as defined in Public Act 14 - XX, within the state using the services of one or more employees for pay, or the legal representative of any such employer, but all contracts of employment between an employer employing persons excluded from the definition of employee and any such employee shall be conclusively presumed to include the following mutual agreements between employer and employee: (A) That the employer may accept and become bound by the provisions of this chapter by immediately complying with section 31-284; (B) that, if the employer accepts the provisions of this chapter, the employee shall then be deemed to accept and be bound by such provisions unless the employer neglects or refuses to furnish immediately to the employee, on his written request, evidence of compliance with section 31-284 in the form of a certificate from the commissioner, the Insurance Commissioner or the insurer, as the case may be; (C) that the employee may, at any time, withdraw his acceptance of, and become released from, the provisions of this chapter by giving written or printed notice of his withdrawal to the commissioner and to the employer, and the withdrawal shall take effect immediately from the time of its service on the commissioner and the employer; and (D) that the employer may withdraw his acceptance and the acceptance of the employee by filing a written or printed notice of his withdrawal with the commissioner and with the employee, and the withdrawal shall take effect immediately from the time of its service on the commissioner and the employee. The notices of acceptance and withdrawal to be given by an employer employing persons excluded from the definition of employee and the notice of withdrawal to be given by the employee, as provided in this subdivision, shall be served upon the commissioner, employer or employee, either by personal presentation or by registered or certified mail. In determining the number of employees employed by an individual, the employees of a partnership of which he is a member shall not be included. A person who is the sole proprietor of a business may accept the provisions of this chapter by notifying the commissioner, in writing, of his intent to do so. If such person accepts the provisions of this chapter he shall be considered to be an employer and shall insure his full liability in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-284. Such person may withdraw his acceptance by giving notice of his withdrawal, in writing, to the commissioner. Any person who is a partner in a business shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of this chapter and shall insure his full liability in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-284, unless the partnership elects to be excluded from the provisions of this chapter by notice, in writing and by signed agreement of each partner, to the commissioner.

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc):

DOL2014willfullfailure.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:

Department of Labor

Liaison: Marisa Morello Phone: (860) 263-6502 E-mail: marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal:

UC Accounts - Tax Division

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal:

Heidi Lane

#### **Title of Proposal**

AAC An Increase in Penalties Due to False or Misleading Declarations, Statements or Representations

**Statutory Reference** 

31-273

#### **Proposal Summary**

The proposal seeks to increase penalties assessed against employers who willfully fail to declare payment of wages in payroll records or who knowingly make a false statement or representation or fail to disclose a material fact in order to obtain, increase, prevent or decrease any benefit, contribution or other payment under this chapter.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (21) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?

  No.
- (22) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)? Yes. All states impose penalties for fraudulent employer activities that lead to improper benefit or contribution payments. The amount of those penalties varies widely among states ranging to amounts as high as \$100,000. Other examples of penalties levied in fraud cases include but are not limited to \$1,000 per offense and 400% of the tax owed. In addition, prison time imposed varies widely ranging from as low as 30 days to as high as 15 years. In those states with stronger fraud deterrents, it is believed that improper benefit and contribution payments are reduced and program integrity is enhanced.
- (23) Have certain constituencies called for this action? Yes. Due to the insolvency of the unemployment insurance trust fund, many constituencies from both labor and business have called for increased penalties for fraudulent activities. Also, the United States Department of Labor has charged states with improving the integrity of their unemployment insurance programs, including implementing stronger deterrents to fraud.
- (24) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session? Without stronger fraud deterrents, improper payments are trending upward. The United States Department of Labor has estimated that 11% of all payments made nationally within the unemployment insurance benefits programs are improper.

<ul><li>Original</li></ul>	າ of Pi	roposal
----------------------------	---------	---------

New Proposal

X\_\_ Resubmission

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (20) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package? Judiciary Committee did not take action due to lack of time on JF Deadline Day.
- (21) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal? Yes CBIA had originally testified in opposition to this bill in the Labor Committee during the 2012 session (HB 5234) because they felt that a Class D Felony penalty was too harsh. Therefore, we negotiated new language with CBIA and that compromise language is attached. House took no action in 2012 due to lack of time.
- (22) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation? CBIA, Labor & Judiciary Committee Co-Chairs, unions supported, non-union construction opposed.

  What was the last action taken during the past legislative session? SB 926 died in Judiciary on JF Deadline day (Labor Committee vote was 7-4)

#### PROPOSAL IMPACT

Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: None		
Agency Contact (name, title, phone):		
Date Contacted:		
Approve of Proposal YESNOTalks Ongoing		
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments		
, a		
N/A		
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO		
<ul> <li>Fiscal Impact (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)</li> </ul>		
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)		
There will be no fiscal impact for municipalities to implement this proposal. In addition, there should be no increase in penalties to the municipalities because it is assumed that municipalities are not committing program fraud.		
State There will be no fiscal impact for the state to implement this proposal. In addition, there should be no increase in penalties to the state because it is assumed that the state is not committing program fraud.		
Federal There will be no fiscal impact to the federal government to implement this proposal. In addition, there should be no increase in penalties to the federal government because it is assumed that the federal government is not committing program fraud.		
Additional notes on fiscal impact		

Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

The policy and customer service impact is very positive in that the Agency and the State will be making substantial efforts to improve program integrity and deter program fraud; both universally recognized as shortcomings in the current unemployment insurance program. This proposal will level the playing field because it will penalize those employers who are willfully failing to report wages in its wage record. Therefore, this proposal will help to create jobs and grow Connecticut's economy.

# Insert fully drafted bill here

AN ACT CONCERNING THE WILFUL FAILURE OF AN EMPLOYER TO DECLARE THE PAYMENT OF WAGES ON PAYROLL RECORDS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PURPOSES.

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

Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 31-273 of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof: (Effective January 1, 2015)

(e) If the administrator determines that any person, firm or corporation has wilfully failed to declare the payment of wages on payroll records, the administrator may impose a penalty of [ten] fifteen per cent of the total contributions [past] due to the administrator during the entire period the person, firm or corporation wilfully failed to declare the payment of wages on payroll records, as determined pursuant to section 31-270. Such penalty shall be in addition to any other applicable penalty and interest under section 31-266. In addition, the administrator may require the person, firm or corporation to make contributions at the maximum rate provided in section 31-225a for a period of one year following the determination by the administrator concerning the wilful nondeclaration. If the person, firm or corporation is paying or should have been paying, the maximum rate at the time of the determination, the administrator may require that such maximum rate continue for a period of three years following the determination.

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc):

#### 12113\_DOL\_ApprenticeshipTaxCredit

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:

DOL

Liaison: Marisa Morello

Phone: 263-6502

E-mail:Marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal:

Apprenticeship Division

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal:

Heidi Lane

#### **Title of Proposal**

#### AA Clarifying the Apprenticeship Tax credit for Construction Trades

**Statutory Reference** 

12-217g

#### **Proposal Summary**

To simplify the calculation of tax credits for sponsors of apprentices by using the same method of calculating the tax credit for manufacturing and construction trades.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (25) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?

  NO
- (26) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)?
- (27) Have certain constituencies called for this action? NO
- (28) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session? Apprenticeship tax credit calculation would remain the same.

#### • Origin of Proposal \_\_\_ Resubmission

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (23) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?
- (24) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?
- (25) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?
- (26) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?

#### PROPOSAL IMPACT

• Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: <b>DRS</b> Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Sue Sherman, Legislative Program Manager, (860) 297-5693		
Ernie Adamo, Legislative Liaison, (860) 297-5694		
Date Contacted: 12/18/13		
Approve of Proposal YESNOXTalks Ongoing		
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments		
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO		
<ul> <li>Fiscal Impact (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)</li> </ul>		
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)		
None		
State		
Unknown		
Federal		
None		
Additional notes on fiscal impact		

• Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

To simplify the tax credit for sponsors of apprentices by using the same method of calculating the tax credit for manufacturing and construction trades.

# Insert fully drafted bill here

**Sec. 12-217g. Tax credits for apprenticeship training in manufacturing, construction and plastics-related trades.** [(a)] There shall be allowed a credit for any taxpayer against the tax imposed under this chapter for any income year with respect to each apprenticeship in the manufacturing **and construction** trades commenced by such taxpayer in such year under a qualified apprenticeship training program as described in this section, certified in

accordance with regulations adopted by the Labor Commissioner and registered with the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council established under section 31-22n, in an amount equal to six dollars per hour multiplied by the total number of hours worked during the income year by apprentices in the first half of a two-year <u>or three-year</u> term of apprenticeship and the first three-quarters of a four-year term of apprenticeship, provided the amount of credit allowed for any income year with respect to each such apprenticeship may not exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars or fifty per cent of actual wages paid in such income year to an apprentice in the first half of a two-year <u>or three-year</u> term of apprenticeship\_or in the first three-quarters of a four-year term of apprenticeship, whichever is less.

- [(b) There shall be allowed a credit for any taxpayer against the tax imposed under this chapter for any income year with respect to each apprenticeship in plastics and plastics-related trades commenced by such taxpayer in such year under a qualified apprenticeship training program as described in this section, certified in accordance with regulations adopted by the Labor Commissioner and registered with the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council established under section 31-22n, which apprenticeship exceeds the average number of such apprenticeships begun by such taxpayer during the five income years immediately preceding the income year with respect to which such credit is allowed, in an amount equal to four dollars per hour multiplied by the total number of hours worked during the income year by apprentices in the first half of a two-year term of apprenticeship and the first three-quarters of a four-year term of apprenticeship, provided the amount of credit allowed for any income year with respect to each such apprenticeship may not exceed four thousand eight hundred dollars or fifty per cent of actual wages paid in such income year to an apprentice in the first half of a two-year term of apprenticeship or in the first three-quarters of a four-year term of apprenticeship, whichever is less.
- (c) There shall be allowed a credit for any taxpayer against the tax imposed under this chapter for any income year with respect to wages paid to apprentices in the construction trades by such taxpayer in such year that the apprentice and taxpayer participate in a qualified apprenticeship training program, as described in this section, which (1) is at least four years in duration, (2) is certified in accordance with regulations adopted by the Labor Commissioner, and (3) is registered with the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council established under section 31-22n. The tax credit shall be (A) in an amount equal to two dollars per hour multiplied by the total number of hours completed by each apprentice toward completion of such program, and (B) awarded upon completion and notification of completion occur, provided the

amount of credit allowed for such income year with respect to each such apprentice may not exceed four thousand dollars or fifty per cent of actual wages paid over the first four income years for such apprenticeship, whichever is less.]

(d) For purposes of this section, a qualified apprenticeship training program shall require at least four thousand but not more than eight thousand hours of apprenticeship training for certification of such apprenticeship by the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council. The amount of credit allowed any taxpayer under this section for any income year may not exceed the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to such income year.

 $\textbf{Document Name} \ (e.g. \ OPM1015Budget.doc; \ OTG1015Policy.doc) :$ 

DOL2014SBMAfee.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:

Department of Labor

Liaison: Marisa Morello Phone: (860) 263-6502 E-mail: Marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal:

**Executive Administration** 

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal:

Heidi Lane

#### **Title of Proposal**

#### AAC the Filing Fee at the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration

**Statutory Reference** 

31-97

#### **Proposal Summary**

This proposal will raise the filing fee for filing a complaint with the SBMA from \$25 to \$100.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (29) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?
- (30) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)?
- (31) Have certain constituencies called for this action? A PRI study 1997 reported that since at least 1979, the \$25 filing fee has remained unchanged. Therefore at the present, the filing fee has remained unchanged for 34 years.
- (32) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session? The filing fee would remain as it was in 1979.

#### Origin of Proposal

New Proposal

X Resubmission

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (27) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package? Unions opposed in Labor Committee Public Hearing, CCM supported
- (28) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?
- (29) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?
- (30) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session? HB 6333 had a public hearing but was

never called for a JF vote in the Labor Committee
PROPOSAL IMPACT
Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)
Agency Name: NONE
Agency Contact (name, title, phone):
Date Contacted:
Assess of December 1 VEC NO Table On a line
Approve of ProposalYESNOTalks Ongoing
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments
N/A
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO
• Fiscal Impact (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated
impact)
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
The cost for filing a complaint with SBMA will be higher, however, this may be offset by the reduction in what may be seen as frivolous complaints.
Section as involved complaints.
State
In 2010-2011 there were 906 grievances filed with a filing fee for each party of \$25.00 for a total
income of \$42,250.00. In 2011-2012 there were 718 grievances filed at a total income of
\$37,925.00 collected.
If the fee were to be raised to \$100 and 812 grievances were filed (an average of the 2 years
above), there would be a total of \$162,400.
Federal
Additional notes on fiscal impact

• Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

Raising the filing fee will help to ensure that anyone filing a complaint will be filing in good faith. Further, the proposal provides that half of the fees collected be deposited in the general fund and half be deposited in a DOL fund for the efficiency and administration of the SBMA, including training.

## Insert fully drafted bill here

(Effective October 1, 2014)

Sec. 31-97. Submission of grievance or dispute; procedure. Claim of nonarbitrability of issue. (a) Whenever a grievance or dispute arises between an employer and his employees, the parties may submit the same directly to said board and notify said board or its clerk in writing and upon payment by each party of a filing fee of [twenty-five] one hundred dollars. Whenever a single public member of the board is chosen to arbitrate a grievance or dispute, as provided in section 31-93, the parties shall each be refunded the filing fee. Whenever such notification is given, a panel of said board, as directed by its chairman, shall proceed with as little delay as possible to the locality of such grievance or dispute and inquire into the causes thereof. The parties shall thereupon submit to said panel in writing, succinctly, clearly and in detail, their grievances and complaints and the causes thereof, and severally promise and agree to continue in business or at work without a strike or lockout until the decision of the panel is rendered; but such agreement shall not be binding unless such decision is rendered within ten days after the completion of the investigation. The panel shall fully investigate and inquire into the matters in controversy, take testimony under oath in relation thereto and may administer oaths and issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and for the production of books and papers.

(b) No panel of said board may consider any claim that one or more of the issues before the panel are improper subjects for arbitration unless the party making such claim has notified the opposing party and the chairman of the panel of such claim, in writing, at least ten days prior to the date of hearing, except that the panel may consider such claim if it determines there was reasonable cause for the failure of such party to comply with said notice requirement.

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc):

DOL2014Evaluations.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:

Department of Labor

Liaison: Marisa Morello Phone: (860) 263-6502 E-mail: Marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal:

**Executive Administration** 

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal:

Heidi Lane

#### **Title of Proposal**

AAC the Disclosure of Performance Evaluations of Members of the State Board of Labor Relations (SBLR) and the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration (SBMA)

**Statutory Reference** 

New

#### **Proposal Summary**

In the court system, attorneys and others who appear before judges have the opportunity to fill out confidential evaluations of the judges for the Judicial Department. Pursuant to Section 2-40a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the performance evaluations of judges are made available solely to the members of the joint standing committee on judiciary prior to any public hearing on the nomination of any such judge and to the members of the Judicial Selection Commission in the performance of their duties. In this proposal, the evaluations will be provided to users of the services of the members of the SBLR and SBMA to evaluate the member's performance. The evaluations shall remain in confidence known only to the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Labor, the Office of the Governor, the individual Board member evaluated and those assigned to present the information to and evaluate the member.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### • Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

(33) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?

No.

(34) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)?

Many states have confidential evaluations for judges and administrative law judges. Research did not reveal the outcomes but the evaluations in almost all circumstances are kept confidential.

 $(35) Have\ certain\ constituencies\ called\ for\ this\ action?$ 

No

(26) 111 (6.1)		. 9
(36) What would happen if this		
Department of Labor and the Office of the Governor would not have information that would be helpful in judging user satisfaction and making reappointments.		
neipiui iii judging user saus	staction and making reappoin	itilients.
Origin of Droposal	Navy Dyamagal	V. Basukusiasiau
Origin of Proposal	New Proposal	X_ Resubmission
If this is a resubmission, please shar		
		pplicable, was not included in the
_		due to lack of time which is the same
thing that occurred with t		due to lack of time which is the same
_		er the previous legislative session to
		e system, Board staff with various Board
		tified against the bill in the Labor
Committee	t the proposant chions tes	onica against the one in the Labor
	olders/advocates/legislators	involved in the previous work on this
legislation? Board member		F
(34)		
, ,	ken during the past legislativ	ve session? The Labor Committee
		ever, the House did not take action due
to lack of time.		,
PROPOSAL IMPACT		
	list for sock offertal account	
Agencies Affected (please	e list for each affected agency)	
Agency Name: None		
Agency Contact (name, title, phone)	:	
Date Contacted:		
Approve of Proposal	YESNO	Talks Ongoing
<b>Summary of Affected Agenc</b>	v's Comments	
Building of Affected Agenc	y s Comments	
N/A		
Will there need to be further negotiatio	n? YESNO	
<ul> <li>Fiscal Impact (please inclu</li> </ul>	de the proposal section that ca	uses the fiscal impact and the anticipated
impact)		
Municipal (please include any municipa	I mandate that can be found w	ithin legislation)
Name		
None		
State		
State		
None		
INOTIC		
Federal		
r cuti ai		

None	
Additional notes on fiscal impact	

#### Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

This proposed bill would enable the Executive Administration of the Department of Labor and the Office of the Governor to review the performance evaluations completed by individuals who appear before the members of the State Board of Labor Relations and the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration. The evaluations will be shared with the mediators and will improve their effectiveness. The proposal will also greatly streamline and improve the service delivery of the SBLR & the SBMA because the confidential performance evaluations will be used to ensure that the member's performance is at a level that best serves its constituency.

# Insert fully drafted bill here

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS AND THE STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened: Effective October 1, 2014

Section 1. (NEW) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 55 of the general statutes and subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the general statutes, any performance evaluation of any member of the State Board of Labor Relations or the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration shall be made available to the member, Labor Commissioner, Governor and any individual responsible for evaluating the performance of such member. Any information disclosed shall be used only for the purpose of improving the service provided by said boards, evaluation of the member's performance, and for consideration of reappointment of the member by the Governor.

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 12113\_DOL\_confidentialinfo

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Labor
Liaison: Marisa Morello
Phone: (860) 263-6502
E-mail: Marisa.morello@ct.gov
Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Office of Program Policy
Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Jennifer Devine

**Title of Proposal** AAC Permitting the Department of Labor to Provide Certain Confidential Department of Labor Information to Access Health CT

**Statutory Reference** 

31-254

**Proposal Summary** Modification of CGS § 31-254 to provide specific permission for DOL to provide Access Health CT (AHCT) with direct access to confidential unemployment compensation data.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (37) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary? **Yes**
- (38) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)? **Unknown**
- (39) Have certain constituencies called for this action? Yes
- (40) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session?

The statute would not provide authorization for DOL to give AHCT access to confidential unemployment insurance information for the health exchange.

•	Origin of Proposal	X_ New Proposal	Resubmission
•	Origin of Proposal	X_ New Proposal	Resubmission

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (35) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?
- (36) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?

(37) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on the (38) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?	is legislation?
PROPOSAL IMPACT	
Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)	
Agency Name: Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Date Contacted:	
Approve of Proposal YESNOTalks Ongoing	
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments	
Will there need to be further negotiation? YESNO	
<ul> <li>Fiscal Impact (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the a impact)</li> </ul>	anticipated
<b>Municipal</b> (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)  None	
State None	
Federal None	
Additional notes on fiscal impact	
• Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated will In order to authorize DOL to provide Access Health CT (AHCT), the State H Insurance Exchange, direct access to confidential unemployment compensation modification of CGS § 31-254 is required.	ealth

## Insert fully drafted bill here

# AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO PROVIDE CERTAIN CONFIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT OF LABOR INFORMATION TO ACCESS HEALTH CT

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

Section 1. Section 31-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) Each employer, whether or not otherwise subject to this chapter, shall keep accurate records of employment as defined in subsection (a) of section 31-222, containing such information as the administrator may by regulation prescribe in order to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. Such records shall be open to, and available for, inspection and copying by the administrator or his authorized representatives at any reasonable time and as often as may be necessary. The administrator may require from any employer, whether or not otherwise subject to this chapter, any sworn or unsworn reports with respect to persons employed by him which are necessary for the effective administration of this chapter. Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection and subsection (g) of this section, information obtained shall not be published or be open to public inspection, other than to public employees in the performance of their public duties, in any manner revealing the employee's or the employer's identity, but any claimant at a hearing before a commissioner shall be supplied with information from such records to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of his claim. Any employee of the administrator, or any other public employee, who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months or both and shall be dismissed from the service. Reports or records which have been required by the administrator and which have been used in computing benefit rights of claimants or in the determination of the amounts and rates of contributions shall be preserved by the administrator for a period of at least four years. Those records or reports required by the administrator which have not been used for the purpose of computing benefit rights or in the determination of the amounts or rates of contributions shall be preserved by the administrator for at least two and one-half years. Such records or reports may, after preservation

for the minimum period required by this section, be destroyed by the administrator in his discretion, notwithstanding the provisions of section 11-8a. Notwithstanding any of the disclosure provisions of this chapter, the administrator shall provide upon request of the public agency administering the TANF and child support programs, any information in his possession relating to individuals: (A) Who are receiving, have received, or have applied for unemployment insurance; (B) the amount of benefits being received; (C) the current home address of such individuals; and (D) whether any offer of work has been refused and, if so, a description of the job and the terms, conditions, and rate of pay therefor. Notwithstanding any of the disclosure provisions of this chapter, the administrator shall provide, upon request of the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation, its officers or employees, any information in his possession relating to the current residence address or place of employment of any individual who has been determined by the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation to be in default on his student loan. Reimbursement for the cost of furnishing this information shall be made by the agency requesting the data in a manner prescribed by the administrator of this chapter.

- (2) Any authorized user of the CTWorks Business System shall have access to any information required to be entered into such system by the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance program, established by the Trade Act of 1974, as amended by 19 USC 2271 et seq., provided the user enters into a written agreement with the administrator establishing safeguards to protect the confidentiality of any information disclosed to such user. Each authorized user shall reimburse the administrator for all costs incurred by the administrator in disclosing information to such user. Information contained in the system shall not be disclosed or redisclosed to any unauthorized user, except that aggregate reports from which individual data cannot be identified may be disclosed. Any person who violates any provision of this subdivision shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both, and shall be prohibited from any further access to information in the system.
- (b) The Labor Department shall administer a state directory of new hires in accordance with this section. Not later than twenty days after the date of employment, each employer maintaining an office or transacting business in this state shall report the name, address and Social Security number of each new employee employed in this state to the Labor Department by forwarding to said department a copy of the Connecticut income tax withholding or exemption certificate completed by such employee or by any other means consistent with regulations the Labor Commissioner may adopt in accordance with chapter 54, except that employers reporting magnetically or electronically shall report new

- employees, if any, at least twice per month by transmissions not less than twelve nor more than sixteen days apart. Each such report shall indicate the name, address and state and federal tax registration or identification numbers of the employer. Such information shall be transmitted in a format prescribed by the Labor Commissioner. Such information shall be entered by the Labor Department in the state directory of new hires within five business days of receipt and may be used by the Labor Commissioner in accordance with his powers and duties but shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this section and subsection (b) of section 31-254a.
- (c) (1) For the purposes of this section, "employer" does not include any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States; or any state agency performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions, if the head of such agency has determined that reporting pursuant to this section with respect to the employee could endanger the safety of the employee or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission. For the purposes of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this section, the terms "employer" and "employee" shall include persons engaged in the acquisition and rendition, respectively, of independent contractual services, provided the expected value of such services for the calendar year next succeeding the effective date of the contract for such services, is at least five thousand dollars.
- (2) An employer that has employees who are employed in this state and one or more other states and that transmits reports magnetically or electronically shall not be required to report to this state if such employer has designated another state in which it has employees to which it will transmit reports, provided such employer has notified the Labor Commissioner, in writing, as to which other state it has designated for the purpose of sending such reports.
- (d) On a daily basis, in IV-D support cases, as defined in section 46b-231, the Department of Social Services shall compile a list of all individuals who are the subject of a child support investigation or action being undertaken by the IV-D agency, as defined in section 46b-231, and shall transmit such list to the Labor Department. The Labor Department shall promptly identify any new employee who is such an individual and said department shall transmit to the Department of Social Services the name, address and Social Security number of each new employee and the name, address and state and federal tax registration or identification numbers of the employer. The IV-D agency shall use such information to locate individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying and enforcing child or medical support orders, and may disclose such information to any agent of such agency that is under

- contract to carry out such purposes. The Labor Commissioner shall require that confidentiality safeguards be part of the contracting agency's agreement with the Department of Social Services.
- (e) [On a biweekly basis, the Department of Social Services shall compile a list of individuals who are receiving public assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families, Medicaid, food stamp, state supplement and state-administered general assistance programs and shall transmit such list to the Labor Department. The Labor Department shall promptly identify any new employee who is such an individual and said department shall transmit to the Department of Social Services the name, address and Social Security number of each such new employee and the name, address and state and federal tax registration or identification numbers of the employer.] Upon request of the Department of Social Services and AccessHealthCT, the Labor Department shall provide wage and claim information contained in the Labor Department's records to the Department of Social Services and AccessHealthCT to assist such Departments in the determination of eligibility for public assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income and other state supplement and stateadministered general assistance programs. The Labor Commissioner shall require that confidentiality safeguards be part of the written agreement between the Labor Department and either Department as part of the disclosure process.
- (f) The Department of Social Services <u>and AccessHealthCT</u> shall reimburse the Labor Department for any costs included in carrying out the provisions of this section, including the cost of providing a toll-free facsimile number for employers required to report pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and section 31-254a. The Commissioner of Social Services and the Labor Commissioner, <u>and the Chief Executive Officer of AccessHealthCT and the Labor Commissioner</u>, shall enter into [a] <u>separate</u> purchase of service [agreement] <u>agreements</u> which [establishes] <u>establish</u> procedures necessary for the administration of subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of this section.
- (g) (1) Notwithstanding any of the information disclosure provisions of this section, the administrator shall disclose information obtained pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to: (A) A regional workforce development board, established pursuant to section 31-3k, to the extent necessary for the effective administration of the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Program of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended from time to time, the federal Workforce Investment Act, as amended from time to time, and the state employment services program established pursuant to section 17b-688c for recipients of temporary family assistance, provided a

regional workforce development board, enters into a written agreement with the administrator, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, concerning protection of the confidentiality of such information prior to the receipt of any such information; (B) a nonpublic entity that is under contract with the administrator where necessary for the effective administration of this chapter or with the United States Department of Labor to administer grants which are beneficial to the interests of the administrator, provided such nonpublic entity enters into a written agreement with the administrator, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, concerning protection of the confidentiality of such information prior to the receipt of any such information; (C) the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, appointed under section 10a-1a, for use in the performance of such president's official duties to the extent necessary for evaluating programs at institutions of higher education governed by said board pursuant to section 10a-1a, provided such president enters into a written agreement with the administrator, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, concerning protection of the confidentiality of such information prior to the receipt of any such information; [or] (D) a third party pursuant to written, informed consent of the individual or employer to whom the information pertains.

- (2) Any written agreement shall contain safeguards as are necessary to protect the confidentiality of the information being disclosed, including, but not limited to a:
- (A) Statement from the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, of the purposes for the requested information and the specific use intended for the information;
- (B) Statement from the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, that the disclosed information shall only be used for such purposes as are permitted by this subsection and consistent with the written agreement;
- (C) Requirement that the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, store the disclosed information in a location that is physically secure from access by unauthorized persons;
- (D) Requirement that the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, store and process the disclosed information maintained in an electronic format in such a way that ensures that unauthorized persons cannot obtain the information by any means;
- (E) Requirement that the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, establish safeguards to ensure that only authorized persons, including any authorized agent of the board, are permitted access to disclosed information stored in computer systems;
- (F) Requirement that the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, enter into a written agreement, that has

- been approved by the administrator, with any authorized agent of the board or nonpublic entity, which agreement shall contain the requisite safeguards contained in the written agreement between the board and the administrator;
- (G) Requirement that the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, instruct all persons having access to the disclosed information about the sanctions specified in this section, and further require each employee of such board or nonpublic entity, and any agent of such board or nonpublic entity, authorized to review such information, to sign an acknowledgment that he or she has been advised of such sanctions;
- (H) Statement that redisclosure of confidential information is prohibited, except with the written approval of the administrator;
- (I) Requirement that the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, dispose of information disclosed or obtained under this subsection, including any copies of such information made by the board or nonpublic entity, after the purpose for which the information is disclosed has been served, either by returning the information to the administrator, or by verifying to the administrator that the information has been destroyed;
- (J) Statement that the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, shall permit representatives of the administrator to conduct periodic audits, including on-site inspections, for the purpose of reviewing such board's or nonpublic entity's adherence to the confidentiality and security provisions of the written agreement; and
- (K) Statement that the regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, shall reimburse the administrator for all costs incurred by the administrator in making the requested information available and in conducting periodic audits of the board's or nonpublic entity's procedures in safeguarding the information.
- (3) Any employee or agent of a regional workforce development board or nonpublic entity, as appropriate, who discloses any confidential information in violation of this section and the written agreement, entered into pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both, and shall be prohibited from any further access to confidential information.

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 12113\_DOL\_technical

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal - 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Labor

Liaison: Marisa Morello
Phone: (860) 263-6502
E-mail: Marisa.morello@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Office of Program Policy

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Jennifer Devine

Title of Proposal AAC Technical and Other Changes to the Labor Department Statutes

**Statutory Reference** 

4-66e(d); 4-124uu; 31-3h(b)(3); 31-3bb; 31-77

**Proposal Summary** These technical changes will repeal obsolete reporting requirements and reinstate the report card concerning matters related to employment and training that was inadvertently deleted in the 2013 Technical Bill.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

#### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (41) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?
- (42) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)?
- (43) Have certain constituencies called for this action?
- (44) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session?

This proposed bill makes technical changes to repeal obsolete reporting requirements and restore an inadvertently deleted report.

•	Origin of Proposal	X_ New Proposal	Resubmission
---	--------------------	-----------------	--------------

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (39) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?
- (40) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?
- (41) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?
- (42) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?

#### PROPOSAL IMPACT

Agencies Affected (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name:
Agency Contact (name, title, phone):
Date Contacted:
Approve of Proposal YESNOTalks Ongoing
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments
N/A
Will there need to be further negotiation? YES NO
Will there need to be further negotiation 125
• Fiscal Impact (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated
impact)
Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
None
State
None
Federal
None
A 11'.' 1
Additional notes on fiscal impact

Policy and Programmatic Impacts (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

This technical bill seeks the repeal of the CETC annual plan because the information in the plan is provided in other reports. The bill also repeals the annual reporting requirement to the DOL by labor organizations, the self-sufficiency measurement report, and the report on trained workforce in the film industry, which are obsolete. Finally, the bill seeks to re-establish the recently repealed Office of Workforce Competitiveness requirement to coordinate the production of the annual legislative report card. The report card process documents a linkage between workforce training and higher educational outcomes and workforce outcomes, and the information provided is a vital part of the data collection effort underway in education and labor.

# **Insert fully drafted bill here**

# AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT STATUTES.

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

Sec. 1. Add section 31-3bb to the general statutes as follows:

Program report cards re employment placement. On or before October 1, 1998, and annually thereafter, the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission shall submit to the Office of Policy and Management and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to employment and training a report card of each program emphasizing employment placement included in the commission's annual inventory. The report card shall, at a minimum, identify for each program the cost, number of individuals entering the program, number of individuals satisfactorily completing the program and the employment placement rates of those individuals at thirteen and twenty-six-week intervals following completion of the program or a statement as to why such measure is not relevant.

Sec. 2. Sections 4-66e(d), 4-124uu, 31-3h(b)(3), 31-77 of the general statutes are repealed.