



House Bill 7107

**AN ACT CONCERNING A JANITORIAL WORK PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH A
DISABILITY OR DISADVANTAGE AND A TASK FORCE TO STUDY EXPANDING
GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Human Services Committee

March 6, 2025

Good morning, Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest, Ranking Members Senator Harding, Representative Case, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **House Bill 7107: An Act Concerning a Janitorial Work Program for Persons with a Disability or Disadvantage with a Task Force to Study Expanding Governmental Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.**

This bill amends C.G.S. §4a-82 to clarify the criteria required for certified small or minority businesses to participate in the janitorial work program. The janitorial work program was established in 2006 to create and expand work opportunities, specifically full-time jobs, or full-time equivalents at standard wage rates, for people with a disability and people with a disadvantage.

Under this program, contractors agree:

1. to fill at least one-third of the jobs of a specific contract with people with physical or cognitive disabilities, and an additional one-third of the jobs under a specific contract with people with a disadvantage, defined as people deemed eligible for employment services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) or whose income during the previous calendar year was not greater than two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level for a family of four; and
2. to pay those employees a standard wage.

To be eligible to participate in this program, contractors must either employ more than 200 people providing janitorial services in Connecticut or be a certified Connecticut small business. **The intent of this legislative proposal is to clarify that the above-listed requirements apply to all businesses that participate in this program, regardless of their size.**

This statute requires clarification because under current law, subsection (l) of C.G.S. §4a-82 appears to not withstand all the provisions of subsection (e), including the requirements listed above for certified Connecticut small businesses participating in the program. In other words, the current language appears to inadvertently waive the contractor requirements put in place to protect the interests of impacted workers, when those workers are employed by a certified small business. This technical adjustment

clarifies that these protective requirements are applicable to all companies participating in the janitorial work program.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) worked collaboratively with the Department of Developmental Services, Department of Aging and Disability Services, and the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance on a similar proposal last year.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and share our support with the Committee.