



Substitute House Bill No. 6585

Special Act No. 23-11

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY TO PROMOTE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT USING THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM AS A MODEL.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to conduct a study and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of state universities leveraging the H1-B visa cap exemption process to fill high-value job openings and promote workforce development, using the Global Entrepreneur In Residence program as a model. The study shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The development of recommendations for creating an international pipeline that would expand the size of the eligible workforce population; (2) an examination of any barriers to establishing such a pipeline; (3) an examination of any barriers faced by the business community when hiring international students; (4) an evaluation of international workforce pipeline programs used in other states; (5) the creation of a best practices document regarding current international workforce pipelines; (6) an examination of how to promote such a pipeline for in-demand jobs outlined by the Office of Workforce Strategy; and (7) an examination of how the state can be more competitive in recruiting an international workforce.

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(b) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall appoint cochairpersons from among the members of the working group, which shall consist of, but need not be limited to, the following members:

(1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce and higher education;

(2) The president of The University of Connecticut, or the president's designee;

(3) The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the president's designee;

(4) A representative from an independent institution of higher education, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce;

(5) The Chief Workforce Officer, or the officer's designee;

(6) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

(7) Two immigration attorneys representing different immigration populations, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group;

(8) Five representatives from businesses with experience in hiring and sponsoring international students, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group; and

(9) A representative from an association representing businesses and industries in this state, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group.

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(c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision (4), (7), (8) or (9) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The chairpersons of the working group shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.