



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 968

January Session, 2019



AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY TO MACHINISTS PROGRAM FOR VETERANS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Advanced manufacturing" means a manufacturing process that
4 makes extensive use of computer, high-precision or information
5 technologies integrated with a high-performance workforce in a
6 production system capable of furnishing a heterogeneous mix of
7 products in small or large volumes with either the efficiency of mass
8 production or the flexibility of custom manufacturing in order to
9 respond quickly to customer demands. "Advanced manufacturing"
10 includes new ways to manufacture existing products and the
11 manufacture of new products emerging from new advanced
12 technologies;

13 (2) "Public institution of higher education" means the institutions of
14 higher education identified in subdivision (2) of section 10a-1 of the
15 general statutes;

16 (3) "Qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program" means
17 a for-credit or noncredit sub-baccalaureate advanced manufacturing
18 certificate program offered by a public institution of higher education
19 in which at least seventy-five per cent of the graduates of such

20 certificate program are employed in a field related to or requiring such
21 certificate in the year following such students' graduation;

22 (4) "Department" means the Labor Department;

23 (5) "Program" means the Military to Machinists program established
24 under subsection (b) of this section;

25 (6) "Veteran" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of
26 section 27-103 of the general statutes; and

27 (7) "Eligible business" means a business that (A) has operations in
28 Connecticut, (B) has been registered to conduct business for not less
29 than twelve months, and (C) is in good standing with the payment of
30 all state and local taxes. "Eligible business" does not include the state or
31 any political subdivision thereof.

32 (b) There is established within the Labor Department a Military to
33 Machinists program for veterans. The program shall, within existing
34 resources of the department, provide assistance to any veteran in (1)
35 earning an advanced manufacturing certificate from a qualifying
36 advanced manufacturing certificate program of a public institution of
37 higher education, and (2) securing employment in the field of
38 advanced manufacturing with any eligible business. The assistance
39 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be provided to any
40 veteran only if such veteran first obtains an advanced manufacturing
41 certificate from a qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate
42 program of a public institution of higher education.

43 (c) (1) The Labor Commissioner shall designate employees of the
44 department's Office for Veterans Workforce Development to act as
45 liaisons, in a number deemed appropriate by the commissioner, and
46 each liaison shall provide the assistance described in subsection (b) of
47 this section to any veteran on behalf of the program.

48 (2) In connection with providing the assistance described in
49 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, each liaison designated

50 pursuant to this subsection shall also assist any veteran to obtain
51 funding for the cost of attendance at a public institution of higher
52 education's qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program.
53 Such funding may include (A) tuition waivers under sections 10a-77
54 and 10a-99 of the general statutes, and (B) expenditures from the
55 Workforce Training Authority Fund under section 31-11jj of the
56 general statutes.

57 (3) In connection with providing the assistance described in
58 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, each liaison designated
59 pursuant to this subsection shall also help any eligible business apply
60 for (A) a grant under section 31-3uu of the general statutes, and (B) tax
61 credits under section 12-217g of the general statutes, if applicable.

62 (d) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the
63 Labor Department shall, within existing resources of the department,
64 develop or approve, in conjunction with the Department of Veterans
65 Affairs and the Department of Economic and Community
66 Development, an informational campaign to distribute to qualified
67 veterans' charitable organizations, as described in subsection (b) of
68 section 27-100f of the general statutes, and Operation Academic
69 Support for Incoming Service Members centers. The informational
70 campaign shall include a description of the program and shall address
71 the various opportunities and benefits that the program may provide
72 for veterans in this state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The title was changed.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*