



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1021

Special Act No. 21-24

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP.

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

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section: (1) "Industry 4.0 technology" means the hardware, software and related innovations associated with the digitization of the manufacturing sector, allowing for the collection and analysis of all aspects of the manufacturing operations leading to increased quality, efficiency, productivity and security; and (2) "small and mid-sized manufacturers" means businesses engaged in manufacturing having fewer than one hundred fifty employees at any individual facility owned or operated by the business.

(b) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall appoint and convene a manufacturing technology working group to develop a strategic plan to ensure that manufacturers in the state have a strategy for the lean application and integration of Industry 4.0 technology into their product development and production processes.

(c) The working group shall:

(1) Compile comprehensive profiles, including mission statements

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and lists of services, for all entities that receive state or federal funding for the purpose of researching, developing, training, marketing, consulting or deploying Industry 4.0 technology or associated services directly to, or for the benefit of, manufacturing startups, small and mid-sized manufacturers or other businesses primarily engaged in manufacturing; and

(2) Conduct value-stream mapping and other analyses, as needed, to assess the flow of services from the entities identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection, to manufacturers in the state. Such analyses shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) identification of the extent to which such services complement, conflict with or duplicate each other, (B) assessment of the relative impacts of such services on the manufacturers served, (C) identification of gaps in services provided relative to the Industry 4.0 technology needs of manufacturers, (D) identification of barriers and recommendations for achieving the goals of the working group described in subsection (b) of this section, and (E) identification and assessment of participation levels in small business innovation research programs and small business technology transfer programs.

(d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall appoint members to the working group. Appointments to the working group shall include, but need not be limited to, representatives from the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, the Governor's chief manufacturing officer, representatives of entities described in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, a representative of the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, a representative of CONNSTEP, representatives of at least two manufacturers having fewer than seventy-five employees, representatives of at least two manufacturers having not less than seventy-five employees and not more than one

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hundred fifty employees, a representative of CTNext, a representative of the Connecticut Manufacturers' Collaborative, a representative of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, a representative of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, a representative of The University of Connecticut and a representative of Central Connecticut State University. The members of the working group representing small and mid-sized manufacturers shall comprise not less than thirty-three per cent of the working group and manufacturers shall comprise not less than fifty per cent of the working group.

(e) The members appointed to represent the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology and CONNSTEP shall cochair the working group. The cochairs shall schedule the first meeting of the working group not later than August 31, 2021.

(f) Not later than March 15, 2022, the working group shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its progress in accomplishing the goals set forth in subsection (b) of this section to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce. Such report shall identify any barriers to accomplishing the goals set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(g) Not later than October 1, 2022, the working group shall submit a strategic plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce that includes data, findings and legislative proposals to accomplish the goals set forth in subsection (b) of this section. The working group shall terminate on the date it submits such report or October 1, 2022, whichever is later.