
Higher Education Committee

SB 5554

Brief Description: Regarding the job skills program.

Sponsors: Senators Kilmer, Hobbs, Kastama, King, Jarrett, Marr, McAuliffe, Shin and Pridemore.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritizes job skills programs which promote the growth of industry clusters.
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Hearing Date: 3/6/09

Staff: Cece Clynych (786-7195)

Background:

Job Sills Program

The Job Skills Program was created in 1983 to provide short-term training customized to meet businesses' specific needs. Educational institutions work in partnership with business and industry to deliver training to new or current employees at the the work site or in a classroom. Up to 50 percent of training costs are covered by a Job Skills grant. Financial support from business and industry must be equal to or greater than the amount of the grant, and may be in the form of cash or in-kind resources.

The program is administered by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), with the advice of the Workforce Training Customer Advisory Committee. The SBCTC is charged with assuring the following:

1. The program is within the scope of the Job Skills Program and may reasonably be expected to succeed and thereby increase employment in the state.
2. Provision has been made to use any available alternative funding from local, state, and federal sources.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

3. The grant will only be used to cover program costs.
4. The program will not be unnecessarily duplicative.
5. There is demonstrable need for the skills training and education.
6. The educational institution has made provisions for the use of existing resources for student financial assistance.
7. Absent the grant, the educational institution would not be able to attract the necessary technical assistance and financial support from business and industry.
8. The program is a collaborative partnership between business, industry, labor, educational institutions, and other partners.
9. Financial support from business and industry is equal to or greater than the grant amount.
10. Reporting and auditing requirements are met.
11. Provision has been made to work in tandem with the Employment Security Department to identify and screen potential trainees and for participation by low-income persons, those receiving temporary assistance for needy families, dislocated workers, and persons from disadvantaged groups.

The Job Skills Program was funded at \$2,725,000 for Fiscal Year 2009. According to the SBCTC's January 1, 2009 report to the Legislature: \$2.466 million in grants were awarded to 24 projects that expect to train 2,677 workers; \$55,000 was expended for program administration and support, marketing, and technical assistance; and \$204,300 was available for new projects in the remainder of the 2009 Fiscal Year. An additional three projects were in the process of submitting applications.

Summary of Bill:

The SBCTC and the advisory committee are directed to give priority to applications which promote the growth of industry clusters, specifically those:

- from firms in strategic industry clusters as identified by the state or local areas;
- proposing coordination with other cluster-based programs or initiatives;
- proposing industry-based credentialing; and
- proposing increased capacity for educational institutions that can be made available to industry and students beyond the grant recipients.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.