

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1151

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL; AMENDING SECTION 1 OF HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 24, IF ENACTED BY THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTY-SEV-
3 ENTH IDAHO LEGISLATURE, TO REVISE LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING SECTION
4 72-1204, IDAHO CODE, AS ADDED BY SECTION 2 OF HOUSE BILL NO. 24, IF
5 ENACTED BY THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH IDAHO LEGIS-
6 LATURE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE IDAHO LAUNCH GRANT PROGRAM
7 AND IN-DEMAND CAREERS FUND; AMENDING SECTION 33-4305, IDAHO CODE,
8 AS AMENDED IN SECTION 4 OF HOUSE BILL NO. 24, IF ENACTED BY THE FIRST
9 REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH IDAHO LEGISLATURE, TO REMOVE A
10 PROVISION REGARDING GRANT PREFERENCE AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN DATA
11 REPORTING BY THE COUNCIL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN
12 EFFECTIVE DATE.
13

14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

15 SECTION 1. That Section 1 of House Bill No. 24, if enacted by the First
16 Regular Session of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, be, and the same is
17 hereby amended to read as follows:

18 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The purpose of this act is
19 to enable the Workforce Development Council to coordinate the
20 state's policy to match Idaho students with Idaho jobs in in-demand
21 fields. The Legislature finds that there are many pathways to a
22 successful career, including workforce training, career technical
23 programs, community colleges, and colleges. The Legislature fur-
24 ther finds that an educated workforce is an enormous asset for the
25 state's economy. With unemployment at record lows and inflation
26 at record highs, the need for skilled workers is critical for our
27 state's continued economic prosperity. The Legislature further
28 finds that oversight and accountability of the Idaho Launch Grant
29 Program are paramount and will require annual reports to inform
30 annual appropriation decisions. To that end, it is the intent of
31 the Legislature to tailor the initial Idaho Launch appropriation
32 from the In-Demand Careers Fund to the number of eligible student
33 applicants. Based on recent postsecondary go-on rates by Idaho
34 graduates, the initial cost estimate is approximately \$60 million
35 to \$70 million.

36 SECTION 2. That Section 72-1204, Idaho Code, as added by Section 2 of
37 House Bill No. 24, if enacted by the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sev-
38 enth Idaho Legislature, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as fol-
39 lows:

1 72-1204. IDAHO LAUNCH GRANT PROGRAM AND IN-DEMAND CAREERS FUND -- DEF-
2 INITIONS. As used in this section through section 72-1206, Idaho Code:

3 (1) "Board" means the state board of education.

4 (2) "Council" means the workforce development council established in
5 this chapter.

6 (3) "Eligible adult learner" means an Idaho resident who is pursuing
7 education or training for an in-demand career.

8 (4) "Eligible education expenses" means:

9 ~~(a) Student student~~ tuition and fees at an eligible institution;
10 however, in no case shall the council reimburse more than eighty-five
11 percent (85%) of a program's total tuition and fees or more than eight
12 thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,500), whichever is less.

13 ~~(b) Room and board for the eligible institution, not to exceed actual~~
14 ~~cost; or~~

15 ~~(c) Fees for national standardized assessments or industry-recognized~~
16 ~~certification examinations.~~

17 (5) "Eligible institution" means a training provider as recognized by
18 the council under the workforce innovation and opportunity act or the work-
19 force development training fund. Eligible institution also means a public
20 postsecondary organization governed or supervised by the board, a board of
21 trustees of a community college established pursuant to the provisions of
22 chapter 21, title 33, Idaho Code, or any educational organization located in
23 Idaho that is:

24 (a) Operated privately;

25 (b) Classified as not-for-profit under state law; and

26 ~~(c) Under the control of an independent board and not directly con-~~
27 ~~trolled or administered by a public or political subdivision; and~~

28 ~~(d) (c) Accredited by an organization recognized by the board as pro-~~
29 ~~vided in section 33-2402, Idaho Code.~~

30 (6) "Eligible student" means a student who:

31 (a) Is an Idaho resident;

32 (b) Will graduate from an accredited high school or its equivalent in
33 Idaho as determined by the board beginning with the spring 2024 graduat-
34 ing class;

35 (c) Has enrolled in or applied to an eligible institution and begins en-
36 rollment in the fall semester following graduation, unless the council
37 grants an extension for extenuating circumstances such as those out-
38 lined in section 72-1205, Idaho Code; and

39 (d) Has used next steps Idaho or an equivalent career exploration pro-
40 gram accepted by the council and has completed a career pathway plan
41 that meets the minimum requirements established by the council.

42 (7) "Grant" means an amount to be determined annually by the council
43 that shall not ~~be set lower than~~ exceed eight thousand five hundred dollars
44 (\$8,500) per eligible student.

45 (8) "Grant distribution platform" means a digital platform through
46 which grant funds are transferred from the council to the account of a par-
47 ticipant to be used for eligible education expenses.

48 (9) "In-demand careers" means careers that have a high number of open-
49 ings in Idaho or an expected high rate of growth in Idaho. In-demand careers

1 are to be determined annually by the council based on job market data and
 2 shall be submitted annually in a report to the legislature by January 1.

3 (10) "Participant" means an Idaho resident for whom a grant is awarded
 4 under section 72-1205, Idaho Code, and who has met the minimum academic stan-
 5 standards of, and has been accepted into, an eligible institution.

6 (11) "Program" means the Idaho launch grant program established by sec-
 7 tion 72-1205, Idaho Code.

8 (12) "Resident" means an individual meeting legal residency require-
 9 ments as defined in section 33-3717B, Idaho Code.

10 SECTION 3. That Section 33-4305, Idaho Code, as amended in Section 4 of
 11 House Bill No. 24, if enacted by the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sev-
 12 enth Idaho Legislature, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as fol-
 13 lows:

14 72-1206. IN-DEMAND CAREERS FUND. (1) There is hereby established in
 15 the state treasury the in-demand careers fund.

16 (2) Moneys in the in-demand careers fund are subject to legislative ap-
 17 propriation and shall consist of the following:

18 (a) Legislative appropriations;

19 (b) Donations and contributions made to the fund;

20 (c) Interest earned on idle moneys in the fund;

21 (d) Moneys transferred pursuant to section 63-3638 (17), Idaho Code;

22 (e) Moneys reverted or repaid to the fund pursuant to section 72-1205,
 23 Idaho Code; and

24 (f) Moneys transferred pursuant to section 33-4602 (14), Idaho Code.

25 (3) The in-demand careers fund shall be used to award grants as outlined
 26 in section 72-1205, Idaho Code.

27 (4) When the available appropriation in a fiscal year exceeds partici-
 28 pants, the council may use excess moneys as follows:

29 (a) Up to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) of the remaining appropri-
 30 ation may be used to provide enhanced grant funding to either eligible
 31 students or eligible adult learners based upon the following condi-
 32 tions:

33 (i) If potential awards from the council exceed available funding
 34 from the enhanced grants, awards shall be prioritized first based
 35 on the pursuit of in-demand careers; and

36 (ii) If, following the prioritization provided for in subpara-
 37 graph (i) of this paragraph, additional moneys remain for awards,
 38 prioritization shall then be based on financial need.

39 ~~(b) In cases in which the demand for enhanced grants as provided for in~~
 40 ~~this subsection exceeds the available appropriation, the council may~~
 41 ~~give preference to eligible students who pursue programs that offer~~
 42 ~~a money-back guarantee if the program's graduates do not find work in~~
 43 ~~their chosen field within a certain time period after graduation.~~

44 ~~(e) (b)~~ The remaining appropriation shall be retained in the fund and
 45 be subject to legislative appropriation in subsequent legislative ses-
 46 sions for the purposes of expanding in-demand career training opportu-
 47 nities.

48 (5) By January 1 each year, the council shall report sufficient data to
 49 the legislature regarding:

- 1 (a) The number and demographics of eligible students applying for
2 grants;
3 (b) The number and type of eligible institutions approved by the coun-
4 cil;
5 (c) The list of in-demand careers prioritized by the council;
6 (d) The number of grants awarded and demographics of participants; and
7 (e) Data to demonstrate the effectiveness of the program, including
8 but not limited to program completion rates, satisfactory academic
9 progress, job placement rates, and retention rates of participants in
10 Idaho upon program completion.

11 SECTION 4. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
13 July 1, 2023.