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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - JOBS MATCH PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Paiva Weed, Bates, Ruggerio, and Lynch

Date Introduced: May 12, 2011

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 154

4 THE RHODE ISLAND ENHANCED JOBS MATCH PROGRAM

5 42-154-1. Short title. -- This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Rhode
6 Island Enhanced Jobs Match Program Act."

7 42-154-2. Legislative findings. -- The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

8 (1) Rhode Island's statewide career pathways systems must be driven by local business
9 and industry needs;

10 (2) Despite high unemployment, businesses report difficulties and frustration in locating
11 employment candidates with the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities they need;

12 (3) Locating, training and preparing candidates to fill job openings is an expense that few
13 companies can afford;

14 (4) The state needs a focused interagency collaboration to provide easy access for
15 businesses to find competent employees and job seekers to obtain necessary resources, training
16 and skills development;

17 (5) The state needs to take a cross-departmental approach to build upon the efforts of the
18 department of labor and training to facilitate employers' access to high quality, skilled job seekers
19 and reduce the number of unemployed individuals in Rhode Island.

1 **42-154-3. Creation and Duties of the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet.** -- (a) There is
2 hereby created a “governor’s workforce cabinet” comprised of the cabinet-level officials from the
3 state agencies with workforce-related roles. These agencies include: (1) The director of the
4 department of labor and training; (2) The director of the economic development corporation; (3)
5 The director of the department of human services; (4) The director of the department of
6 behavioral health, disabilities and hospitals; (5) The director of the department of children, youth
7 and families; (6) The commissioner of office of higher education; (7) The commissioner of
8 elementary and secondary education; (8) The secretary of the executive office of health and
9 human services; (9) The director of the department of corrections; (10) The director of the
10 department of elderly affairs; and (11) The director of the department of veterans' affairs.

11 (b) The duties of the cabinet shall include:

12 (1) Coordinating and integrating interagency policies and programs to focus and enhance
13 state workforce and job development activities;

14 (2) Providing a forum for cross-departmental data sharing and working in collaboration
15 with the governor’s workforce board;

16 (3) Holding meetings at least quarterly;

17 (4) Assessing the potential for the department of labor and training web-based workforce
18 development and job match (“EmployRI”) system to be enhanced through inter-agency support,
19 to ensure that employers and job seekers have easy access to job-matches and training
20 opportunities;

21 (5) Analyzing the structure and sources of funding necessary for enhancements and
22 interagency supports to the web-based workforce development and job match system;

23 (6) Implementing the Rhode Island enhanced jobs match program and maintaining it in
24 accordance with section 42-154-4;

25 (7) As necessary, making recommendations for legislative action relating to the web-
26 based workforce development system and financing;

27 (8) Being subject to the provisions of chapter 38-2, access to public records act, and
28 chapter 42-46, open meetings act;

29 (9) Working with the governor's workforce board to designate funds as appropriate to
30 address skill gaps identified by the enhanced job match program; and

31 (10) Creating a subcommittee including business and worker representatives to provide
32 input into the implementation of the enhanced job match program.

33 **42-154-4. The RI Enhanced Jobs Match Program.** -- The workforce cabinet shall
34 implement the enhanced jobs match system using the current department of labor and training

1 web based workforce and job system as a basis, with significant interdepartmental enhancements,
2 as follows:

3 (1) The system shall be easy for employers to participate in, update and receive responses
4 from job seekers, addressing potential barriers to participation;

5 (2) The system shall be understandable, accessible and productive for job seekers,
6 including measures to ensure language and literacy based accessibility;

7 (3) The system shall allow for the prompt identification of workers who are partial, but
8 not fully matches for job openings, resulting in timely skill gap remediation plans;

9 (4) The system shall have the ability to address identified skill gaps through the provision
10 of training and/or education;

11 (5) The system shall notify the department of labor and training of the nature of the skill
12 gaps which exist between job openings and job seekers, and shall have the ability to aggregate
13 skill gap reports for the governor's workforce cabinet;

14 (6) The system shall be promoted and advertised to maximize business and employment
15 use; and

16 (7) The system shall be coordinated with the higher education assistance authority's
17 career and educational pathways planning website (known as "waytorgi.org").

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - JOBS MATCH PROGRAM

1 This act would create the Rhode Island enhanced jobs match program to facilitate,
2 employers access to high quality, skilled job seekers.

3 This act would take effect upon passage

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