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HOUSE BILL 1949

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Stambaugh, Tarleton, and Kraft

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the skilled worker outreach,  
2 recruitment, and key training program; and adding a new chapter to  
3 Title 28C RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply  
6 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
7 otherwise.

8 (1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

9 (2) "Eligible applicant" means any government or nongovernment  
10 entity or organization that offers, or plans to offer, a skilled  
11 worker training program and that has partnered with industry to offer  
12 or fund a skilled worker training program.

13 (3) "Grant program" means the skilled worker outreach,  
14 recruitment, and key training program.

15 (4) "Grant review committee" means the skilled worker outreach,  
16 recruitment, and key training program review committee as created in  
17 section 5 of this act.

18 (5) "Matching grant" means a grant funded by the state to match  
19 funding provided by an eligible applicant to support efforts to  
20 increase the state's skilled workforce.

1 (6) "Skilled worker training program" means an accredited  
2 educational, occupational education, apprenticeship, or similar  
3 training program that:

4 (a) Trains or retrain individuals to perform a skill that is  
5 needed in the workforce;

6 (b) Awards an industry or state recognized certificate,  
7 credential, associate degree, professional license, or similar  
8 evidence of achievement upon completion of the program; and

9 (c) Does not include an educational program that awards a  
10 bachelor's or higher degree upon completion of the program.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to availability of amounts  
12 appropriated for this specific purpose, the skilled worker outreach,  
13 recruitment, and key training program is created. The purpose of the  
14 grant program is to increase the state's skilled workforce by  
15 awarding matching grants to eligible applicants to:

16 (1) Engage in outreach and recruiting efforts to increase  
17 enrollment in and completion of skilled worker training programs and,  
18 by partnering with business and industry, to determine current,  
19 future, and critical workforce needs; and

20 (2) Provide skilled worker training.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall administer the  
22 grant program and establish a process for accepting grant  
23 applications, including application guidelines and deadlines.

24 (2) By January 1, 2018, and annually no later than January 1st  
25 thereafter, the department shall start accepting grant applications.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) To be considered for a matching grant,  
27 an eligible applicant with an existing skilled worker training  
28 program or that is planning to offer a skilled worker training  
29 program must include, at a minimum, the following information in its  
30 application:

31 (a) A description of how the matching grant will be used to  
32 recruit participants to and provide an outreach plan for its existing  
33 or proposed skilled worker training program;

34 (b) A description of the skilled worker training program it plans  
35 to offer or offers, including the location of the program, the  
36 particular skills taught, and if an existing program, the number of  
37 years it has been in operation;

1 (c) Past, current, and projected enrollment in the skilled worker  
2 training program, and if an existing program, the estimated increases  
3 in enrollment;

4 (d) If an existing skilled worker training program, a comparison  
5 of the number of participants who enroll in the program and the  
6 number of participants who complete the program over a five-year  
7 period, if available;

8 (e) Specific industry needs or gaps in the workforce that the  
9 planned or existing skilled worker training program will or does  
10 address;

11 (f) A description of intended or existing partnerships with  
12 industry members, including those where program participants will  
13 have the opportunity to earn income or credit hours;

14 (g) Costs or the anticipated costs to operate the skilled worker  
15 training program;

16 (h) Resources that the eligible applicant will commit in matching  
17 dollars if a matching grant is awarded, and if the skilled worker  
18 training program already exists, existing resources that the eligible  
19 applicant has invested in recruiting, outreach, and funding of its  
20 skilled worker training program; and

21 (i) Any other information the department requires.

22 (2) Upon receipt of an application that satisfies the  
23 requirements in this section, the department must send the  
24 application to the grant review committee for its consideration.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The department must establish a grant  
26 review committee to review grant applications and make  
27 recommendations on who should receive a matching grant and the  
28 amount. The grant review committee must consist of twelve members  
29 with representatives from the following:

30 (a) The department of labor and industries;

31 (b) The department of employment security;

32 (c) The department of enterprise services;

33 (d) The Washington economic development association;

34 (e) The workforce training and education coordinating board;

35 (f) The state board for community and technical colleges;

36 (g) Two representatives from business;

37 (h) Two representatives from labor; and

38 (i) Two representatives from the Washington apprenticeship and  
39 training council.

1 (2) The grant review committee shall designate a chair to oversee  
2 the committee's meetings.

3 (3) The grant review committee shall establish criteria for  
4 ranking eligible applicants for matching grant awards. The grant  
5 review committee shall consider and rank eligible applicants based on  
6 which have the best potential to:

7 (a) Reach a broad audience through their recruitment and outreach  
8 efforts;

9 (b) Significantly increase enrollment and completion of their  
10 skilled worker training program;

11 (c) Fill existing needs for skilled workers in the market;

12 (d) Have demonstrated the following, prioritized in the following  
13 order:

14 (i)(A) That the eligible applicant will provide monetary  
15 contributions from its own resources; or

16 (B) That the eligible applicant has contributed its own resources  
17 in the form of monetary or in-kind matching contributions; and

18 (ii)(A) That the eligible applicant has secured an industry  
19 partner; or

20 (B) That the eligible applicant has secured from an industry  
21 partner a monetary or in-kind contribution, conditional job placement  
22 guarantees, or that the industry partner has contributed other  
23 meaningful investment in skilled worker training programs.

24 (4) The grant review committee shall submit its recommendations  
25 to the director of the department, who shall determine to whom and in  
26 what amounts to award matching grants. Matching grants must be  
27 awarded no later than April 1st each year following the application  
28 submittal deadline.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Grant recipients shall not use matching  
30 grants for tuition subsidies or to reduce tuition for a skilled  
31 worker training program.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) Each eligible applicant that receives  
33 a matching grant shall submit a report, or if the matching grant  
34 extends over a year, an annual report to the grant review committee  
35 on the outcomes achieved. The grant recipient shall include in the  
36 report at least the following measurable outcomes:

1 (a) The manner in which the grant recipient has used the matching  
2 grant to provide outreach and recruit participants in its skilled  
3 worker training program;

4 (b) The number of participants enrolled in and the number of  
5 participants who completed the skilled worker training program, both  
6 before the matching grant was awarded and since the matching grant  
7 was received;

8 (c) The number of skilled worker training participants who  
9 obtained employment in an industry for which the participant was  
10 trained under the program, including information about the industry  
11 in which the participants are employed;

12 (d) The number of participants recruited; and

13 (e) Any other information the grant review committee determines  
14 appropriate.

15 (2) By December 1, 2019, and by each December 1st thereafter, the  
16 grant review committee shall submit an annual report to the governor  
17 and appropriate committees of the legislature in accordance with the  
18 reporting requirements in RCW 43.01.036. The report must include:

19 (a) The number of matching grants awarded in the prior year,  
20 including the amount, recipient, and duration of each matching grant;

21 (b) The number of individuals who enrolled in and completed a  
22 skilled worker training program offered by each grant recipient;

23 (c) The number of individuals who obtained employment in a  
24 position that uses the skills for which they were trained through a  
25 skilled worker training program offered by a grant recipient; and

26 (d) Other information obtained from grant recipients' reports  
27 under subsection (1) of this section.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** To assist with implementation of the grant  
29 program, the department, in coordination with the workforce training  
30 and education coordinating board, shall assess current and future  
31 workforce needs and coordinate skilled worker training and education  
32 programs throughout the state. The coordination must include:

33 (1) Identifying current, future, and critical workforce needs;

34 (2) Partnering with industry associations and businesses to  
35 assess and determine their workforce needs; and

36 (3) Coordinating with skilled worker training program providers  
37 on skill sets being developed and the quality of applicants being  
38 trained.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    The skilled worker outreach, recruitment,  
2 and key training program account is created in the custody of the  
3 state treasurer. The department shall deposit in the account all  
4 money received for the program. The account shall be self-sustaining  
5 and consist of funds appropriated by the legislature for the skilled  
6 worker outreach, recruitment, and key training program and private  
7 contributions to the program. Expenditures from the account shall  
8 only be used for matching grants provided to grant recipients. Only  
9 the director of the department or the director's designee may  
10 authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to  
11 the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an  
12 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

13        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    Sections 1 through 9 of this act  
14 constitute a new chapter in Title 28C RCW.

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