

SENATE, No. 309

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singleton and Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Energy and Manufacturing Workforce Development Program in DOLWD.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning workforce development funds and amending
2 and supplementing P.L.1992, c.43.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 9 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-9) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 9. a. A restricted, nonlapsing, revolving Workforce
10 Development Partnership Fund, to be managed and invested by the
11 State Treasurer, is hereby established to: provide employment and
12 training services to qualified displaced, disadvantaged and
13 employed workers by means of training grants or customized
14 training services; provide for the other costs indicated in subsection
15 a. of section 4 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-4); provide for the New
16 Jersey Innovation and Research Fellowship Program as provided for
17 in section 3 of P.L.2015, c.235 (C.34:15D-26); provide for the
18 Energy and Manufacturing Workforce Development Program as
19 provided for in section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
20 the Legislature as this bill); and facilitate the provision of education
21 and training to youth by means of grants provided by the Youth
22 Transitions to Work Partnership pursuant to the provisions of
23 P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-1 et al.). All appropriations to the fund,
24 all interest accumulated on balances in the fund and all cash
25 received for the fund from any other source shall be used solely for
26 the purposes specifically delineated by this act.

27 b. During any fiscal year beginning after June 30, 2001, of the
28 total revenues dedicated to the program during any one fiscal year:
29 25% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
30 Development Partnership Fund reserved to provide employment and
31 training services for qualified displaced workers; 6% shall be
32 deposited in an account of the Workforce Development Partnership
33 Fund reserved to provide employment and training services for
34 qualified disadvantaged workers; 42% shall be deposited in an
35 account of the Workforce Development Partnership Fund reserved
36 for and appropriated to the Office of Customized Training, except
37 that, during any fiscal year beginning after June 30, 2019, 37% shall
38 be deposited in that account and 5% shall be deposited in an
39 account of the Workforce Development Partnership Fund reserved
40 for and appropriated to the Energy and Manufacturing Workforce
41 Development Program established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c.
42 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill); 3% shall be
43 deposited in an account of the Workforce Development Partnership
44 Fund reserved for occupational safety and health training; 5% shall
45 be deposited in an account of the Workforce Development
46 Partnership Fund reserved for the Youth Transitions to Work

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 Partnership created pursuant to P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-1 et
2 seq.); 3% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
3 Development Partnership Fund reserved for the New Jersey
4 Innovation and Research Fellowship Program established pursuant
5 to section 3 of P.L.2015, c.235 (C.34:15D-26); 10% shall be
6 deposited in an account of the Workforce Development Partnership
7 Fund reserved for administrative costs as defined in section 3 of
8 P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-3); 0.5% shall be deposited in an account
9 of the Workforce Development Partnership Fund reserved for the
10 State Employment and Training Commission to design criteria and
11 conduct an annual evaluation of the program; and 5.5% shall be
12 deposited in an account of the Workforce Development Partnership
13 Fund to be used, at the discretion of the commissioner, for any of
14 the purposes indicated in subsection a. of section 4 of
15 P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-4).

16 c. Beginning January 1, 1995, through June 30, 2002, the
17 balance in the fund as of the previous December 31, as determined
18 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, shall
19 not exceed 1.5 times the amount of contributions deposited for the
20 calendar year then ended. If the balance exceeds this amount, the
21 excess shall be deposited into the unemployment compensation
22 fund within seven business days of the date that the determination is
23 made.

24 d. Beginning July 1, 2002, and for any subsequent fiscal year,
25 if the unexpended cash balance in any of the accounts indicated in
26 subsection b. of this section, less any amount awarded in grants but
27 not yet disbursed from the account, is determined to exceed 20% of
28 the amount of contributions collected for deposit in the account
29 pursuant to this **subsection** section during the fiscal year then
30 ended, the excess shall be regarded as an unemployment
31 compensation contribution and deposited into the unemployment
32 compensation fund within seven business days of the date that the
33 determination is made.

34 (cf: P.L.2015, c.235, s.2)

35

36 2. (New section) a. The Department of Labor and
37 Workforce Development, in consultation with the Department of
38 Education, the Board of Public Utilities, and the New Jersey State
39 Employment and Training Commission, shall establish the Energy and
40 Manufacturing Workforce Development Program. The purpose of
41 the program is to evaluate and improve training opportunities for jobs
42 in energy-related industries and manufacturing industries in order to
43 increase the number of skilled workers in this State who are qualified
44 for employment in those industries. The program shall prioritize
45 providing underrepresented groups, including, but not limited to,
46 ethnic minorities, women, veterans, and socioeconomically
47 disadvantaged individuals with access to training and jobs in
48 energy-related industries and manufacturing industries.

- 1 b. To fulfill the purpose of the program, the department shall:
- 2 (1) assess the effectiveness of State training programs to produce
- 3 students and workers with the skills and technical expertise
- 4 necessary to fill the employment opportunities available in the
- 5 energy-related industries and manufacturing industries in the State;
- 6 (2) evaluate the outreach and accessibility of these programs to
- 7 underrepresented groups;
- 8 (3) identify workforce needs and common skill gaps, by region
- 9 and industry, in the energy-related industries and manufacturing
- 10 industries in the State to determine in-demand skills, abilities, and
- 11 credentials;
- 12 (4) develop a workforce development strategy, formalized in a
- 13 written plan, to satisfy workforce needs, close skill gaps, and
- 14 improve access to entry-level and mid-level jobs in energy-related
- 15 industries and manufacturing industries, with a focus on providing
- 16 career pathways for underrepresented groups;
- 17 (5) establish, publish, and maintain, in a format accessible to the
- 18 public, a clearinghouse of information and resources on training and
- 19 workforce development programs for energy-related industries and
- 20 manufacturing industries;
- 21 (6) annually award a minimum of five consortia of employers,
- 22 labor organizations, and education institutions with training grants for
- 23 the purpose of providing programs that focus on the development of
- 24 in-demand skills, abilities, or credentials in energy-related industries
- 25 and manufacturing industries. The department shall prioritize
- 26 awarding grants to consortia that include outreach strategies to
- 27 underrepresented groups. All training grants shall be administered
- 28 by the Office of Customized Training and each grant awardee shall
- 29 comply with all the requirements of section 5 of P.L.1992, c.43
- 30 (C.34:15D-5); and
- 31 (7) prepare an annual report of the program's findings for the
- 32 Governor and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
- 33 (C.52:14-19.1).
- 34 c. The Energy and Manufacturing Workforce Development
- 35 Program shall be funded through the funds reserved for the program
- 36 from the Workforce Development Partnership Fund pursuant to
- 37 section 9 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-9). In addition, the department
- 38 shall, to the maximum extent permitted by State and federal law, give
- 39 priority in the use of job training funds, as defined in section 4 of
- 40 P.L.1989, c.293 (C.34:15C-1), including any available federal job
- 41 training funds and any other available State job training funds, to
- 42 provide funds to the Energy and Manufacturing Workforce
- 43 Development Program to implement the workforce development
- 44 strategy required under paragraph (4) of subsection b. of this section.
- 45 d. *As used in this act:*
- 46 "Energy-related industry" means the exploration, extraction,
- 47 transportation, transmission, refining, processing, generation,
- 48 distribution, sale or storage of energy and includes, but is not

1 limited to: the energy efficiency industry; the pipeline industry; the
2 utility industry; the alternative fuels industry; the nuclear industry;
3 the oil and gas industry; the renewable energy industry; and the coal
4 industry.

5 “Manufacturing industry” means an industry involving the
6 process of converting raw materials, components, or parts into
7 finished goods and includes, but is not limited to: the chemical
8 manufacturing industry; the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry;
9 the computer and electronic product manufacturing industry; the
10 fabricated metal manufacturing industry; the food manufacturing
11 industry; and the machinery manufacturing industry.

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13 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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18 This bill establishes the Energy and Manufacturing Workforce
19 Development Program within the Department of Labor and
20 Workforce Development, in consultation with the Department of
21 Education, the Board of Public Utilities, and the New Jersey State
22 Employment and Training Commission. The purpose of the program is
23 to evaluate and improve training opportunities for jobs in energy-
24 related industries and manufacturing industries in order to increase the
25 number of skilled workers in this State who are qualified for
26 employment in those industries. Furthermore, the program must
27 prioritize providing underrepresented groups, including ethnic
28 minorities, women, veterans, and socioeconomically disadvantaged
29 individuals, with access to training and jobs in energy-related and
30 manufacturing industries in the State.

31 To fulfill the purpose of the program, the department is required to:

32 1. assess the effectiveness of State training programs to produce
33 students and workers with the skills and technical expertise
34 necessary to fill the employment opportunities available in the
35 energy-related and manufacturing industries in the State;

36 2. evaluate the outreach and accessibility of such programs to
37 underrepresented groups;

38 3. identify workforce needs and common skill gaps, by region
39 and industry, within energy-related industries and manufacturing
40 industries in the State to determine in-demand skills, abilities, and
41 credentials;

42 4. develop a workforce strategy, formalized in a written plan,
43 to satisfy workforce needs, close skill gaps, and improve access to
44 entry-level and mid-level jobs in energy-related industries and
45 manufacturing industries, with a focus on providing career pathways
46 for underrepresented groups;

47 5. establish, publish, and maintain, in a format accessible to the
48 public, a clearinghouse of information and resources on training and

1 workforce development programs for jobs in energy-related
2 industries and manufacturing industries;

3 6. annually award a minimum of five consortia of employers,
4 labor organizations, and education institutions with training grants for
5 the purpose of providing programs that focus on the development of
6 in-demand skills in energy-related industries and manufacturing
7 industries. The department must prioritize awarding grants to
8 consortia that include outreach strategies to underrepresented
9 groups. Furthermore, all training grants are required to be
10 administered by the Office of Customized Training and each grant
11 awardee shall comply with all the requirements of section 5 of
12 P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-5); and

13 7. prepare an annual report on the program's findings for the
14 Governor and the Legislature.

15 The bill provides that five percent of the total revenues dedicated
16 to the Workforce Development Partnership Fund during any one
17 fiscal year must be reserved for the Energy and Manufacturing
18 Workforce Development Program. Furthermore, the bill requires the
19 department, to the extent permitted by law, to give priority in the use
20 of other available State and federal job training funds, to fund the
21 program to implement the workforce development strategy plan
22 required under its provisions.