

SENATE, No. 1308

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Green Jobs Training Partnership Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the Green Jobs Training Partnership Program,
2 supplementing P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-1 et seq.) and amending
3 P.L.1999, c.23.

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

7
8 1. (New section) a. There is established, in the Department of
9 Labor and Workforce Development, in consultation with the State
10 Employment and Training Commission created pursuant to section
11 5 of P.L.1989, c.293 (C.34:15C-2), the Green Jobs Training
12 Partnership Program. The purpose of this program is to recruit,
13 prepare, and educate individuals for entry-level green jobs with
14 long-term career potential through paid training programs. The
15 program shall target for recruitment traditionally underserved urban
16 men, women, and youth, as well as current workers in need of skills
17 development.

18 b. To fulfill the purpose of the program, the department shall
19 annually provide a minimum of five consortia of employers, labor
20 organizations, and education institutions with training program
21 grants. Each program shall offer 12 weeks of paid training, at a
22 minimum wage of \$15 per hour for each trainee, and include, but
23 not be limited to, the following areas: basic math and English
24 literacy; life skills and job readiness skills training; environmental
25 sustainability; financial management; Occupational Safety and
26 Health Administration safety training certification; an overview of
27 apprenticeship; vocational hard skills training in areas such as air
28 sealing, building analysis, and insulation installing; and any other
29 requirement deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Labor and
30 Workforce Development. Training may be provided through an
31 apprenticeship program of a labor organization of the consortium.

32 Each trainee shall be a minimum of 18 years old and no
33 consortium shall determine a trainee's eligibility for participation in
34 a training program on the trainee's possession of a high school
35 diploma or any high school equivalency diploma or certificate such
36 as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.

37 Following the successful completion of a training program, each
38 program shall offer trainees: (1) college credits for all applicable
39 course work of the program provided through an educational
40 institution of the consortium; and (2) employment provided through
41 a business of the consortium.

42 c. Each grant awardee shall submit to the department the
43 following information three months following the close of the
44 training program, six months following the close of the training
45 program, and nine months following the close of the training

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 program: the number of participants who successfully completed
2 the training program, and the number of participants currently
3 placed in a green job, including each participant's job title and
4 salary.

5 d. The department shall provide each grant awardee with the
6 funds necessary to reimburse employers up to 50 percent of the
7 hourly wage paid to each trainee for the duration of the training, as
8 well as all tuition and other direct costs of the training, and shall be
9 funded as follows:

10 (1) Each grant awardee shall comply with all requirements of
11 section 5 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-5) and shall receive grant
12 funds from the Workforce Development Partnership Fund for
13 customized training services pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1992, c.43
14 (C.34:15D-5). All customized training grant funds awarded to
15 employers shall be administered by the Office of Customized
16 Training; and

17 (2) The department is authorized to utilize any additional funds
18 necessary, as determined by the commissioner, to fulfill the
19 provisions of this section from the moneys collected from the
20 societal benefits charge pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23
21 (C.48:3-60).

22 e. As used in this section:

23 "Apprenticeship program" means a registered apprenticeship
24 program providing to each trainee combined classroom and on-the-
25 job training under the direct and close supervision of a highly
26 skilled worker in an occupation recognized as an apprenticeable
27 trade, registered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the United
28 States Department of Labor, and meeting the standards established
29 by that office.

30 "Green job" means a job which exhibits those aspects of
31 employment that promote energy efficiency and energy
32 conservation, such as assistant building analyst, assistant air sealer,
33 and insulation installer.

34

35 2. Section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-60) is amended to read
36 as follows:

37 12. a. Simultaneously with the starting date for the
38 implementation of retail choice as determined by the board pursuant
39 to subsection a. of section 5 of this act, the board shall permit each
40 electric public utility and gas public utility to recover some or all of
41 the following costs through a societal benefits charge that shall be
42 collected as a non-bypassable charge imposed on all electric public
43 utility customers and gas public utility customers, as appropriate:

44 (1) The costs for the social programs for which rate recovery
45 was approved by the board prior to April 30, 1997. For the purpose
46 of establishing initial unbundled rates pursuant to section 4 of this
47 act, the societal benefits charge shall be set to recover the same
48 level of social program costs as is being collected in the bundled

1 rates of the electric public utility on the effective date of this act.
2 The board may subsequently order, pursuant to its rules and
3 regulations, an increase or decrease in the societal benefits charge
4 to reflect changes in the costs to the utility of administering existing
5 social programs. Nothing in this act shall be construed to abolish
6 or change any social program required by statute or board order or
7 rule or regulation to be provided by an electric public utility. Any
8 such social program shall continue to be provided by the utility
9 until otherwise provided by law, unless the board determines that it
10 is no longer appropriate for the electric public utility to provide the
11 program, or the board chooses to modify the program;

12 (2) Nuclear plant decommissioning costs;

13 (3) The costs of demand side management programs that were
14 approved by the board pursuant to its demand side management
15 regulations prior to April 30, 1997. For the purpose of establishing
16 initial unbundled rates pursuant to section 4 of this act, the societal
17 benefits charge shall be set to recover the same level of demand
18 side management program costs as is being collected in the bundled
19 rates of the electric public utility on the effective date of this act.
20 Within four months of the effective date of this act, and every four
21 years thereafter, the board shall initiate a proceeding and cause to
22 be undertaken a comprehensive resource analysis of energy
23 programs, and within eight months of initiating such proceeding
24 and after notice, provision of the opportunity for public comment,
25 and public hearing, the board, in consultation with the Department
26 of Environmental Protection, shall determine the appropriate level
27 of funding for energy efficiency and Class I renewable energy
28 programs that provide environmental benefits above and beyond
29 those provided by standard offer or similar programs in effect as of
30 the effective date of this act; provided that the funding for such
31 programs be no less than 50% of the total Statewide amount being
32 collected in public electric and gas utility rates for demand side
33 management programs on the effective date of this act for an initial
34 period of four years from the issuance of the first comprehensive
35 resource analysis following the effective date of this act, and
36 provided that 25% of this amount shall be used to provide funding
37 for Class I renewable energy projects in the State. In each of the
38 following fifth through eighth years, the Statewide funding for such
39 programs shall be no less than 50 percent of the total Statewide
40 amount being collected in public electric and gas utility rates for
41 demand side management programs on the effective date of this act,
42 except that as additional funds are made available as a result of the
43 expiration of past standard offer or similar commitments, the
44 minimum amount of funding for such programs shall increase by
45 an additional amount equal to 50 percent of the additional funds
46 made available, until the minimum amount of funding dedicated to
47 such programs reaches \$140,000,000 total. After the eighth year
48 the board shall make a determination as to the appropriate level of

1 funding for these programs. Such programs shall include a program
2 to provide financial incentives for the installation of Class I
3 renewable energy projects in the State, and the board, in
4 consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, shall
5 determine the level and total amount of such incentives as well as
6 the renewable technologies eligible for such incentives which shall
7 include, at a minimum, photovoltaic, wind, and fuel cells. The
8 board shall simultaneously determine, as a result of the
9 comprehensive resource analysis, the programs to be funded by the
10 societal benefits charge, the level of cost recovery and performance
11 incentives for old and new programs and whether the recovery of
12 demand side management programs' costs currently approved by the
13 board may be reduced or extended over a longer period of time.
14 The board shall make these determinations taking into consideration
15 existing market barriers and environmental benefits, with the
16 objective of transforming markets, capturing lost opportunities,
17 making energy services more affordable for low income customers
18 and eliminating subsidies for programs that can be delivered in the
19 marketplace without electric public utility and gas public utility
20 customer funding;

21 (4) Manufactured gas plant remediation costs, which shall be
22 determined initially in a manner consistent with mechanisms in the
23 remediation adjustment clauses for the electric public utility and gas
24 public utility adopted by the board; **[and]**

25 (5) The cost, of consumer education, as determined by the
26 board, which shall be in an amount that, together with the consumer
27 education surcharge imposed on electric power supplier license fees
28 pursuant to subsection h. of section 29 of this act and the consumer
29 education surcharge imposed on gas supplier license fees pursuant
30 to subsection g. of section 30 of this act, shall be sufficient to fund
31 the consumer education program established pursuant to section 36
32 of this act; and

33 (6) Costs associated with the Green Jobs Training Partnership
34 Program established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
35 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), as determined by the
36 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, which shall
37 be an amount sufficient, when combined with other funding, to
38 annually fund a minimum of five 12-week paid training programs
39 designed to recruit, prepare, and educate individuals for entry-level
40 green jobs with long-term career potential.

41 b. There is established in the Board of Public Utilities a
42 nonlapsing fund to be known as the "Universal Service Fund." The
43 board shall determine: the level of funding and the appropriate
44 administration of the fund; the purposes and programs to be funded
45 with monies from the fund; which social programs shall be provided
46 by an electric public utility as part of the provision of its regulated
47 services which provide a public benefit; whether the funds
48 appropriated to fund the "Lifeline Credit Program" established

1 pursuant to P.L.1979, c.197 (C.48:2-29.15 et seq.), the "Tenants'
2 Lifeline Assistance Program" established pursuant to P.L.1981,
3 c.210 (C.48:2-29.31 et seq.), the funds received pursuant to the Low
4 Income Home Energy Assistance Program established pursuant to
5 42 U.S.C. s. 8621 et seq., and funds collected by electric and natural
6 gas utilities, as authorized by the board, to offset uncollectible
7 electricity and natural gas bills should be deposited in the fund; and
8 whether new charges should be imposed to fund new or expanded
9 social programs.

10 (cf: P.L.1999, c.23, s.12)

11
12 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

13
14
15 STATEMENT

16
17 This bill establishes the Green Jobs Training Partnership
18 Program in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development,
19 in consultation with the State Employment and Training
20 Commission.

21 To fulfill the purpose of the program, the department is required
22 to annually provide a minimum of five consortia of employers,
23 labor organizations, and education institutions with training
24 program grants. Each program must offer 12 weeks of paid
25 training, at a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for each trainee, and
26 include, but not be limited to, the following areas: basic math and
27 English literacy; life skills and job readiness skills training;
28 environmental sustainability; financial management; OSHA safety
29 training certification; an overview of apprenticeship; vocational
30 hard skills training in areas such as air sealing, building analysis,
31 and insulation installing; and any other requirement deemed
32 necessary by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
33 Development. Furthermore, the training may be provided through
34 an apprenticeship program of a labor organization of the
35 consortium.

36 Trainees must be a minimum of 18 years old. A consortium may
37 not determine a trainee's eligibility for participation in the training
38 program on the trainee's possession of either a high school diploma
39 or any high school equivalency diploma or certificate such as a
40 General Education Development (GED) certificate. Each program
41 shall offer trainees (1) college credits for all applicable course work
42 of the program provided through an educational institution of the
43 consortium; and (2) employment provided through a business of the
44 consortium upon the trainee's successful completion of the
45 program.

46 Under the bill, an "apprenticeship program" means a registered
47 apprenticeship program providing to each trainee combined
48 classroom and on-the-job training under the direct and close

1 supervision of a highly skilled worker in an occupation recognized
2 as an apprenticeable trade, registered by the Office of
3 Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor, and
4 meeting the standards established by that office. A “green job” is
5 defined as a job which exhibits those aspects of employment that
6 promote energy efficiency and energy conservation, such as
7 assistant building analyst, assistant air sealer, and insulation
8 installer.

9 The department will provide each grant awardee with the funds
10 necessary to reimburse employers up to 50 percent of the hourly
11 wage paid to each trainee for the duration of the training, as well as
12 all tuition and other direct costs of the training. To fund these
13 costs, each grant awardee will receive grant funds pursuant to
14 section 5 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-5) from the Workforce
15 Development Partnership Fund for customized training services
16 through the Office of Customized Training. Furthermore, the bill
17 authorizes the department to utilize moneys collected from the
18 societal benefits charge (SBC), a non-bypassable charge on all
19 electric and gas utility customers to recover the costs associated
20 with socially beneficial programs, to fund any additional expenses
21 of the program. The Green Jobs Training Partnership Program
22 reflects the purpose of the SBC, as it will provide a pipeline of
23 skilled, entry-level workers capable of employment that will further
24 advance New Jersey towards energy conservation and efficiency.

25 In order to track program performance, each grant awardee is
26 required to submit to the department the following information
27 three, six, and nine months following the close of the training
28 program: the number of participants who successfully completed
29 the training program, and the number of participants currently
30 placed in a green job, including each participant’s job title and
31 salary.

32 This bill codifies the Green Jobs Training Partnership Program, a
33 grant program established in 2009 in collaboration between the
34 Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Conserve to
35 Preserve Foundation of the New Jersey Resources Corporation, and
36 the New Jersey Center for Energy and Environmental Training.
37 The program ended in 2011 due to lack of State and private
38 funding.