

2016 -- H 7097

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LC003345
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HUMAN RESOURCE
INVESTMENT COUNCIL

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Slater, Tobon, Barros, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: January 08, 2016

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-102-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-102 entitled
2 "Governor's Workforce Board Rhode Island" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-102-11. State Work Immersion Program.** -- (a) (1) The workforce board ("board")
4 shall develop a state, work-immersion program ~~and a non-trade, apprenticeship program~~. For the
5 purposes of this section, work-immersion shall mean a temporary, paid, work experience that
6 provides a meaningful learning opportunity and increases the employability of the participant.
7 The programs shall be designed in order to provide post-secondary school students, recent college
8 graduates, and unemployed adults with a meaningful work experience, and to assist employers by
9 training individuals for potential employment.

10 (2) Funding for the work immersion program will be allocated from the job development
11 fund account and/or from funds appropriated in the annual appropriations act. Appropriated funds
12 will match investments made by employers in providing meaningful work immersion positions
13 ~~and non-trade apprenticeships~~.

14 (b) For each participant in the work immersion program, the program shall reimburse
15 eligible employers up to fifty percent (50%) of the cost of not more than four hundred (400) hours
16 of work experience and during a period of ten (10) weeks. If an eligible employer hires a program
17 participant at the completion of such a program, the state may provide reimbursement for a total
18 of seventy-five percent (75%) of the cost of the work-immersion position.

1 (c) ~~The board shall create a non-trade apprenticeship program and annually award~~
2 ~~funding on a competitive basis to at least one new initiative proposed and operated by the~~
3 ~~governor's workforce board industry partnerships. This program shall meet the standards of~~
4 ~~apprenticeship programs defined pursuant to § 28-45-9. The board shall present the program to~~
5 ~~the state apprenticeship council, established pursuant to chapter 45 of title 28, for review and~~
6 ~~consideration.~~

7 (d) An eligible participant in the programs established in subsections (a) and (b) ~~and (c)~~
8 must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must be a Rhode Island resident. Provided,
9 however, any non-Rhode Island resident, who is enrolled in a college or university located in
10 Rhode Island, is eligible to participate while enrolled at the college or university.

11 (e) In order to fully implement the provisions of this section, the board is authorized to
12 promulgate rules and regulations. The rules and regulations shall define eligible employers that
13 can participate in the programs created by this section.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 42-102 of the General Laws entitled "Governor's Workforce Board
15 Rhode Island" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

16 **42-102-12.1. Non-trade apprenticeship program. -- (a) Program establishment. The**
17 workforce board shall create a non-trade apprenticeship program and annually award funding on
18 a competitive basis to at least one new initiative proposed and operated by the governor's
19 workforce board industry partnerships. This program shall meet the standards of apprenticeship
20 programs defined pursuant to §28-45-9. The workforce board shall present the program to the
21 state apprenticeship council, established pursuant to chapter 45 of title 28, for review and
22 consideration.

23 (b) Program incentive. Contingent upon annual appropriation, for each apprentice
24 enrolled in a non-trade apprenticeship program established pursuant to this section, the workforce
25 board shall establish a wage reimbursement incentive, in accordance with the following
26 provisions:

27 (1) Reimbursement would be allowed for the participating business of up to fifty percent
28 (50%) of actual wages paid to the apprentice, or one thousand dollars (\$1,000), whichever is less;

29 (2) The maximum that any one employer may receive within any twelve (12) month
30 period under the terms of this section is five thousand dollars (\$5,000); and

31 (3) An employer shall not be eligible for the wage reimbursement for an apprentice under
32 the terms of this section until after the completion of the probationary period required pursuant to
33 §28-45-9(2)(viii).

34 (c) In order to fully implement the provisions of this section, the workforce board is

1 [authorized to promulgate rules and regulations. The rules and regulations shall define eligible](#)
2 [employers that can participate in the program created by this section.](#)

3 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would provide for a wage reimbursement incentive for employers participating
2 in the non-trade apprenticeship program and would permit the governor's workforce board to
3 establish rules and regulations for the program.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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