



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2657: Arizona commerce authority; workforce development

PRIME SPONSOR: Representative Weninger, LD 17

BILL STATUS: [Caucus & COW](#)

COM: DPA 8-1-0-0

APPROP: DP 10-0-0-1

Overview

Establishes the Technology and Trade Skills Program.

History

[Laws 2011, Second Special Session, Chapter 1](#) established the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) and outlined the agency's responsibilities: to create jobs and expand capital investment through business attraction, expansion and retention; to create and monitor a comprehensive economic and workforce strategy; to manage and administer economic development and workforce programs; to provide statewide marketing leadership; to compete globally; to utilize all means necessary to integrate private sector innovation, focus and responsiveness; and advance public policy to meet the objectives.

Pursuant to [A.R.S. § 41-1544](#), the ACA may award grants for providing training and retraining for specific employment opportunities with new and expanding businesses or businesses undergoing economic conversion. Grant monies are provided from the Job Training Fund, which expires December 31, 2020.

Provisions

Technology and Trade Skills Program (Program) (Sec. 1)

1. Establishes the Technology and Trade Skills Fund (Fund).
 - a. Fund monies consists of legislative appropriations, gifts, grants, and other donations.
 - b. Subjects Fund monies to legislative appropriations.
 - c. Fund is administered by the ACA's chief executive officer.
 - d. Directs the state treasurer to invest and divest Fund monies.
 - e. Exempts Fund monies from lapsing.
 - f. Specifies Fund monies are to be used for providing grants for qualifying providers for expenses relating to workforce development.
2. Establishes the Program to issue grants to qualifying providers that provide workforce development.
3. Authorizes the ACA to distribute grants from the Fund to qualifying providers that establish new or that enhance certain existing job training programs.
4. Specifies the ACA to establish an application procedure for grants.
5. Requires the Program to support specified career and technical education programs and courses.
6. Requires the ACA to survey providers who were awarded grants, and employers from the targeted industries.
 - a. Outlines the contents of the surveys.

Prop 105 (45 votes)

Prop 108 (40 votes)

Emergency (40 votes)

Fiscal Note

7. Directs the ACA to submit an annual report to specified individuals regarding the monies granted from the Fund, the progress of the Program, and an analysis of the Program's accountability measurers and performance indicators.
8. Requires the ACA, beginning FY 2023, to submit survey outcome information to the governor, JLBC, and participating employers prior to September 1 of each year.
9. Terminates the Program July 1, 2029.
10. Defines *qualifying provider* as a community college, private post-secondary technical college or employer-based training program or any other entity that provides job training and education based on market data for high-needs, competitive wage industries.

Fund Appropriation

11. Appropriates \$2 million from the GF to the Fund in FY 2020.

Amendments

Committee on Commerce

1. Allows a qualifying provider to use grants to fund training program start-up costs, including industry- specific curriculum, equipment that is required for specific curriculum and tuition and fees.
 - a. Requires a community college that develops such a curriculum to share the curriculum with other community colleges.
2. Requires the ACA to distribute grants to qualifying providers for workforce development training in rural and urban areas.
3. Modifies the definition of *qualifying provider*.