



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 518

January Session, 2001

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1370

Senate, April 30, 2001

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CAREER LADDER PROGRAMS FOR CRITICAL EMPLOYMENT AREAS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4-124w of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) There is established an Office of Workforce Competitiveness
4 which shall be within the Office of Policy and Management, for
5 administrative purposes only.

6 (b) The office shall:

7 (1) Be the Governor's principal workforce development policy
8 advisor;

9 (2) Be the liaison between the Governor and any local, state or
10 federal organizations and entities with respect to workforce
11 development matters, including implementation of the Workforce

- 12 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended;
- 13 (3) Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state
14 agencies;
- 15 (4) Coordinate the state's implementation of the federal Workforce
16 Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time amended,
17 and advise and assist the Governor with matters related to said act;
- 18 (5) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
19 involvement of members of the public, the legislature and local
20 officials in workforce development matters, including implementation
21 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to
22 time amended;
- 23 (6) Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, appoint such officials and
24 other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties of
25 the office;
- 26 (7) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
27 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the
28 provisions of public act 00-192*; [and]
- 29 (8) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions of
30 public act 00-192*; and
- 31 (9) Not later than October 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, submit a
32 report, with the assistance of the Labor Department, to the Governor,
33 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
34 cognizance of matters relating to education and economic
35 development and the select committee of the General Assembly having
36 cognizance of matters relating to workforce development specifying a
37 forecasted assessment of workforce shortages in occupations in this
38 state for the succeeding two and five-year periods. The report shall
39 also include recommendations concerning (A) methods to generate a
40 sufficient number of workers to meet identified workforce needs,

41 including, but not limited to, scholarship, school-to-career and
 42 internship programs, and (B) methods secondary and higher education
 43 and private industry can use to address identified workforce needs.

44 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness may call upon any
 45 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state to
 46 supply such reports, information and assistance as may be necessary
 47 or appropriate in order to carry out the duties and requirements of the
 48 Office for Workforce Competitiveness. Each officer or employee of
 49 such office, department, board, commission or other agency of the
 50 state is authorized and directed to cooperate with the Office of
 51 Workforce Competitiveness and to furnish such reports, information
 52 and assistance.

53 Sec. 2. (NEW) Not later than September 1, 2003, the Commissioners
 54 of Education and Higher Education, in consultation with the Office of
 55 Workforce Competitiveness and the constituent units of the state
 56 system of higher education, shall establish career ladder programs for
 57 high school students seeking to pursue careers in occupations in this
 58 state with projected workforce shortages in the next five years, as
 59 forecasted by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness pursuant to
 60 section 4-124w of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

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| WFD | <i>Joint Favorable Subst. C/R</i> | LAB |
| LAB | <i>Joint Favorable C/R</i> | ED |
| ED | <i>Joint Favorable Subst.</i> | |

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Indeterminate Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Higher Education, Department of Education, Office of Workforce Competitiveness

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

The bill requires the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) with the Department of Labor's assistance, to submit annual reports to the governor and the Education, Commerce and Workforce Development committees. The first report is due by October 1, 2002. The report must forecast worker shortages in occupations for the next 2 and 5-year periods. It must also recommend ways to generate to meet identified workers needs and methods secondary education; higher education and industry can use to address these needs.

The bill requires the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish career ladder programs for students pursuing careers in occupations identified as workforce shortage areas. DHE and the constituent units of public higher education currently perform a significant amount of career planning for those enrolled at the respective campuses, including the

use of existing articulation agreements. To the extent that this bill seeks to address the needs of high school students, it is uncertain as to what particular role the higher education constituent units would play as well as whether any additional resources would be necessary. However, it is clear that there would be indeterminate costs if the constituent units were required to carry out any recommendations of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness that involved scholarships and internships.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 1370

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CAREER LADDER PROGRAMS FOR CRITICAL EMPLOYMENT AREAS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC), with the Labor Department's assistance, to submit annual reports to the governor and the Education, Commerce, and Workforce Development committees. The report must forecast workforce shortages in occupations in the state for the next two- and five-year periods. It must also recommend (1) ways to generate enough workers to meet identified workforce needs, including scholarship, school-to-career, and internship programs and (2) methods secondary and higher education and industry can use to address these needs. The first report is due by October 1, 2002.

The bill also requires the commissioners of education and higher education, in consultation with OWC and the constituent units of higher education, to establish, by September 1, 2003, career ladder programs for high school students who want to pursue careers in occupations that OWC's first annual report projects will have labor shortages in the next five years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***Office of Workforce Competitiveness***

OWC is within the Office of Policy and Management for administrative purposes. It is the governor's principal workforce development policy advisor, and it acts as a liaison between the governor and other government entities for workforce development matters. OWC coordinates the states' implementation of the 1998

federal Workforce Investment Act and establishes related methods and procedures. It also coordinates state agencies' workforce development activities.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Workforce Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 12 Nay 0

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 12 Nay 0

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0