



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 465

February Session, 2008

* SB00465GAE__042308__ *

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADULT LITERACY BOARD.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) As used in sections 1 to 7,
2 inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Board" means the Adult Literacy Leadership Board;

4 (2) "Adult literacy programs" and "adult literacy services" means
5 services aimed at improving the ability of persons sixteen years of age
6 or over who are not enrolled in secondary school to read, write and
7 speak in English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency
8 necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in
9 society;

10 (3) "Adult education" means a program established pursuant to
11 sections 10-67, 10-69 to 10-71a, inclusive, and 10-73a to 10-73c,
12 inclusive, of the general statutes;

13 (4) "Vision statement" means a written projected overview of the
14 state's adult literacy programs and services at a specified future date;
15 and

16 (5) "Mission statement" means a written declaration of the purpose
17 of the state's adult literacy programs and services, including elements
18 that address the goals of helping adults develop the reading, critical

19 thinking, problem solving skills and communication skills they need to
20 be self-sufficient, active citizens, effective parents and qualified,
21 competitive workers.

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established the
23 Adult Literacy Leadership Board, within the Office of Workforce
24 Competitiveness. The board shall consist of ten voting members and
25 nine ex-officio nonvoting members.

26 (1) The voting members shall be appointed as follows: (A) Four
27 appointed by the Governor, (i) one of whom shall be a director of a
28 local adult education program, (ii) one of whom shall be a director of a
29 regional adult education program, (iii) one of whom represents a
30 public library, and (iv) one of whom represents a business that has
31 employees who lack basic literacy skills or proficiency in the English
32 language; (B) one appointed by the speaker of the House of
33 Representatives who represents a regional workforce development
34 board; (C) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate
35 who represents organized labor; (D) one appointed by the majority
36 leader of the House of Representatives who represents a voluntary
37 literacy organization; (E) one appointed by the majority leader of the
38 Senate who represents an adult literacy advocacy group; (F) one
39 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who
40 shall represent the interests of persons receiving adult literacy services
41 provided by the community-technical colleges; and (G) one appointed
42 by the minority leader of the Senate who represents a community
43 organization that operates an adult literacy program.

44 (2) The ex-officio nonvoting members shall consist of the following
45 members, or their designees: The Commissioners of Correction,
46 Education, Higher Education, Economic and Community
47 Development and Social Services, the Labor Commissioner, the
48 director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, the Secretary of
49 the Office of Policy and Management and the chancellor of the regional
50 community-technical colleges.

51 (3) The voting members shall serve for a term of four years. The
52 members of the commission shall serve without compensation but
53 shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses
54 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

55 (b) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the board from
56 among its voting members. The board may create other positions it
57 deems necessary and may fill such positions from among its members.
58 The powers of the board shall be vested in and exercised by not less
59 than five members of the board. Five members of the board shall
60 constitute a quorum. The board may solicit and receive funds from any
61 public or private sources to carry out its activities.

62 (c) The board shall terminate on July 1, 2012.

63 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Adult Literacy Leadership
64 Board shall:

65 (1) Create vision and mission statements by January 1, 2009;

66 (2) Develop and update a three-year strategic plan, in accordance
67 with section 4 of this act;

68 (3) Report recommendations annually to the Governor and General
69 Assembly for sources and levels of funding to meet the goals and
70 objectives outlined in the strategic plan, in accordance with section 4 of
71 this act;

72 (4) Establish performance measures for the adult literacy system
73 and use them to track progress toward the goals and objectives
74 outlined in the strategic plan;

75 (5) Develop and maintain an online centralized inventory of all
76 adult literacy programs and services offered in the state that includes a
77 description of the type of service, the time and place it is offered and
78 any eligibility requirements or fees;

79 (6) Establish standards for adult literacy service providers,

80 including requirements for waiting lists;

81 (7) Require each adult literacy service provider in the state to
82 maintain a waiting list and report the information to the board, in
83 accordance with standards the board establishes;

84 (8) Promote coordination and collaboration of delivery of adult
85 literacy programs and services through regionalized service delivery
86 and community partnerships; and

87 (9) Prepare an annual state report card on the status of adult literacy
88 in this state, in accordance with section 5 of this act.

89 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) On or before January 1, 2009,
90 the board shall develop a three-year strategic plan for an adult literacy
91 system in this state.

92 (b) The strategic plan shall: (1) Include goals for an adult literacy
93 system including a goal of reducing by a certain percentage each year
94 over a specified period of time the number of adults in this state who
95 lack a high school diploma or proficiency in the English language; (2)
96 define the roles of all adult literacy service providers in the state,
97 examining in particular, (A) governance responsibility for adult
98 education, (B) discrepancies in service delivery and ways to promote
99 regionalized service delivery and community partnerships, and (C)
100 resources for system-wide administration, management, research and
101 coordination; (3) include priorities for services that (A) improve the
102 quality of instruction, (B) improve access and retention, and (C)
103 identify target populations for services; (4) include an analysis of
104 funding requirements of all adult literacy services, identifying (A)
105 estimated resources needed to implement the plan's goals, (B) current
106 sources of funding and possibilities for reallocation, and (C) potential
107 alternatives and new sources of funding; and (5) outline funding
108 policies that provide (A) financial support and incentives to support
109 collaborative delivery of services, and (B) adequate resources for state-
110 funded agencies with adult literacy responsibilities, including public
111 libraries, to carry out data collection, analysis, evaluation and research

112 related to program effectiveness and best practices.

113 (c) The board shall designate regional planning workgroups
114 consisting of representatives of adult literacy service providers and
115 persons receiving adult literacy services to assist in developing and
116 reviewing the strategic plan for adult literacy. The board shall review
117 annually the implementation of the strategic plan and make any
118 necessary revisions. The board shall update the strategic plan every
119 three years.

120 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The state report card, prepared
121 pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 3 of this act, shall provide
122 information on the status of adult literacy in the state. The report card
123 shall identify each major component of the adult literacy system,
124 including, but not limited to, adult education, family literacy and
125 workplace literacy, and provide for each component: (1) The number
126 and demographics of persons served, (2) a description of sources of
127 funding, and (3) performance measures for adult literacy services.

128 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) On or before January 1, 2009,
129 and annually thereafter, the board shall report, in accordance with
130 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and to the joint
131 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
132 matters relating to the judiciary, education, higher education,
133 economic and community development, labor and human services on
134 (1) the progress made in developing and implementing the strategic
135 plan, (2) recommendations for sources and levels of funding to meet
136 the goals outlined in the strategic plan, and (3) the report card
137 prepared pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 3 of this act.

138 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The board may request other
139 state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Departments of
140 Education, Higher Education, Economic and Community
141 Development and Social Services, the Labor Department, the Office of
142 Workforce Competitiveness and the Board of Trustees of the
143 Community-Technical Colleges to provide information, reports and

