



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 868

January Session, 2013



**AN ACT TARGETING STATE FINANCIAL AID TO SUPPORT
TECHNICAL TRAINING.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) The state, through the Office of
2 Higher Education, shall establish a pilot program pursuant to which it
3 shall utilize five hundred thousand dollars in financial aid money for
4 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and five hundred thousand dollars
5 in financial aid money for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, to
6 promote enrollment in nondegree certificate programs and technical
7 courses offered by the regional community-technical colleges that (1)
8 provide industry-recognized credentials, and (2) directly correlate with
9 occupational openings in shortage areas in this state, including, but not
10 limited to, health care, manufacturing, transportation and energy, by
11 providing financial aid to students who enroll in such programs and
12 courses.

13 (b) The Office of Higher Education, in consultation with the Board
14 of Regents for Higher Education, shall develop a list of eligible
15 nondegree certificate programs and technical courses that satisfy the
16 requirements of subsection (a) of this section. The office shall establish
17 a process by which to (1) periodically review such programs and
18 technical courses to ensure that they continue to correlate with
19 occupational openings in shortage areas, and (2) review the overall

20 success of the pilot program.

21 (c) The Office of Higher Education shall award financial aid
22 pursuant to the pilot program established by this section to students in
23 financial need who (1) have completed an application process
24 conducted by said office, (2) are not eligible for federal financial aid,
25 and (3) do not have access to training resources provided through the
26 Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220, as from time to time
27 amended. The office shall determine financial need through a
28 verifiable and recognized process determined by said office, including,
29 but not limited to, student submission of a free application for federal
30 student aid.

31 (d) Not later than October 1, 2014, the Office of Higher Education
32 shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
33 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
34 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
35 regarding (1) the number of students who received financial aid
36 through the pilot program established in accordance with subsection
37 (a) of this section, (2) the nondegree certificate programs and technical
38 courses in which such students enrolled, (3) the cost to such students
39 of such programs and courses, (4) the rates of completion by such
40 students of such programs and courses, (5) the number and type of
41 industry-recognized certificates and credentials earned by such
42 students, and (6) the type of employment secured and wages earned
43 by (A) such students who earned an industry-recognized certificate or
44 credential not later than six months after completion of the certificate
45 program or technical course, and (B) such students who did not earn
46 an industry-recognized certificate or credential within six months of
47 last attending the regional community-technical college through which
48 such student participated in the pilot program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2013	New section

HED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP