



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 263

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5497

House of Representatives, April 1, 2014

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING AN I-BEST PROGRAM ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, "integrated basic education and skills training programming"
3 means a program based on the Integrated Basic Education and Skills
4 Training Program, I-BEST, that fosters students' literacy and work
5 skills by pairing two instructors in the classroom, one to teach
6 professional and technical content and the other to teach basic skills in
7 reading, math, writing or English language, to enable students to move
8 through school and into living wage jobs faster by learning basic skills
9 in real-world scenarios offered by the job-training portion of the
10 curriculum and earning the necessary credentials for such jobs.

11 (b) Not later than July 1, 2015, the state Department of Education, in
12 collaboration with the Department of Social Services, Labor
13 Department and regional workforce development boards established

14 pursuant to section 31-3k of the general statutes, shall expand the
15 integrated basic education and skills training programming
16 implemented pursuant to section 17b-112k of the general statutes, on a
17 regional basis to other areas of this state with a high population
18 density of persons who are receiving benefits under the temporary
19 family assistance program and participating in the Jobs First
20 employment services program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to geographically expand an existing pilot program administered by the departments of Social Services (DSS) and Labor (DOL) using Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST). The bill requires SDE to work in collaboration with regional workforce development boards, DSS, and DOL to expand this pilot to regions with a high population density of TFA recipients who participate in Jobs First by July 1, 2015

The bill does not specify whether the regional expansion of I-BEST under the existing pilot program is (1) subject to the 100 participant cap (which is currently in statute), (2) subject to available appropriations, (3) considered a pilot program itself, or (4) required to operate for a specific length of time.

Currently, the Department of Labor (DOL) is administering an I-BEST program in conjunction with the state's five regional Workforce Investment Boards. The average cost per participant of this program is approximately \$5,375.

sHB 5030, the FY 15 revised budget, as favorably reported by the

Appropriations Committee, includes approximately \$2.5 million available for the I-BEST program through DOL in FY 15.

To the extent that this bill results in additional participants, who are not included in the \$2.5 million appropriation mentioned above, there would be an additional cost to SDE, which would be equal to the number of additional participants, multiplied by the average cost per participant of \$5,375.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of additional participants and the average cost per participant.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5497*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING AN I-BEST PROGRAM ON A REGIONAL BASIS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to geographically expand an existing pilot program using Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST). I-BEST fosters literacy and work skills that quickly help students into living wage jobs by:

1. providing real-world job training in the curriculum, so that students may learn the basic skills to earn necessary job credentials and
2. using two classroom instructors to deliver curriculum, with one teaching professional and technical content and the other teaching basic skills in reading, math, writing, or English language.

The bill requires SDE to work in collaboration with regional workforce development boards and the departments of Social Services (DSS) and Labor (DOL) to expand this pilot to regions with a high population density of temporary family assistance (TFA) (cash welfare) recipients who participate in Jobs First, the state's welfare-to-work employment services program, by July 1, 2015

Current law does not require DSS and DOL to use the I-BEST model for the pilot program, but the model aligns with required pilot services (see BACKGROUND). The bill does not specify whether the regional expansion of I-BEST under the existing pilot program is (1) subject to the 100 participant cap, (2) subject to available appropriations, (3) considered a pilot program itself, and (4) required to operate for a

specific length of time.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

DSS/DOL Pilot Program

By law, the pilot, which must be administered by DSS and DOL, may serve up to 100 TFA recipients who are participating in Jobs First. It must assist participants with adult education and skills training needed to meet employment goals, within available appropriations.

The program must provide the following services:

1. intensive case management services to identify participants' (a) employment goals, (b) support service needs, and (c) training, education, and work experience needs;
2. assistance in accessing needed support services, training, education, and work experience; or
3. funding to facilitate participation in necessary adult basic education, skills training, postsecondary education, or subsidized employment (CGS § 17b-112k).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/13/2014)