

HB 2224 -- YOUTH JOBS ACT

SPONSOR: Peters

This bill establishes the Youth Jobs Act which is implemented by the Division of Job Development and Training within the Department of Economic Development. The bill creates the Youth Jobs Fund which must be used to provide:

(1) Summer employment opportunities for low-income youth, with direct linkages to academic and occupational learning, and may be used to provide supportive services including transportation or child care that are necessary to allow the youth to participate in these opportunities; and

(2) Year-round employment opportunities that may be combined with other activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

The application must form the basis for the contract agreement between the division and any entities wanting to participate in the program. The application must:

(1) Describe the strategies and activities of demonstrated effectiveness the entity will carry out to provide unemployed, low-income young adults and low-income youth with skills that lead to employment upon completion of the activities;

(2) Describe the eligibility requirements for unemployed, low-income young adult and low-income youth to participate in the program. The requirements may include criteria to target assistance to particular categories of the adults and youth;

(3) Describe how the strategies and activities address the needs of the target population;

(4) Describe the expected outcomes to be achieved by implementing the strategies and activities;

(5) Provide evidence that the moneys provided will be expended expeditiously and efficiently to implement the strategies and activities;

(6) Describe how the strategies and activities will be coordinated with other federal, state, and local programs providing employment, education, and supportive activities;

(7) Provide evidence of employer commitment to participate in the activities funded and identify the anticipated occupational and

skill needs;

(8) Provide assurances that the entity will report information relating to fiscal, performance, and other matters the division may require and determines is necessary to effectively monitor the activities;

(9) Provide assurances that the entity will ensure compliance with the requirements, restrictions, labor standards, and other provisions of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; and

(10) Describe how the activities will lead to the industry-recognized credentials as a growth sector or in-demand industry in which there are likely to be significant job opportunities in the short-term.

An entity that receives money from the fund must use the funds to support work-based strategies and activities of demonstrated effectiveness that are designed to provide unemployed, low-income young adults and low-income youth with skills that will lead to employment as part of or upon completion of participation in the activities. The strategies and activities may include:

(1) On-the-job training, registered apprenticeship programs, or other programs that combine work with skills development;

(2) Sector-based training programs designed to meet the specific requirements of an employer or group of the employers in the sector that are committed to hiring individuals upon successful completion of the training;

(3) Training that supports an industry sector, or an employer-based or labor-management committee industry partnership that includes a significant work-experience component;

(4) Activities that lead to the acquisition of industry-recognized credentials as a growth sector or in-demand industry that will likely have significant job opportunities in the short-term;

(5) Activities that provide connections to immediate work opportunities;

(6) Activities offered through career academics that provide students with the academic preparation and training; and

(7) Adult basic education and integrate basic education and training for low-skilled individuals who are at least 16 years of age and younger than 25 years of age, to prepare him or her for jobs that are in demand.

The division may require the reporting of information relating to fiscal, performance, and other matters to effectively monitor the activities funded by the Youth Jobs Fund.