

SCS SB 184 -- JOB TRAINING

SPONSOR: Wallingford

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill modifies provisions relating to the Missouri Works Training Program and changes the name of the program to the Missouri One Start Program.

Currently, the program allows administrative expenses equal to 15% of total training costs. This bill limits such expenses to a reasonable amount determined by the Department of Economic Development. In creating rules and regulations governing the Missouri One Start Training Program, this bill requires the department to consider such factors as the potential number of new jobs to be created, the amount of new capital investment in new facilities and equipment, the significance of state benefits to the qualified company's decision to locate or expand in Missouri, the economic need of the affected community, and the importance of the qualified company to the economic development of the state.

This bill allows the department to require a qualified business to repay all benefits if such business fails to maintain the new or retained jobs within five years of approval of benefits or if such business leaves the state within five years of approval of benefits.

The bill allows the department to contract with other entities, including businesses, industries, other state agencies, and political subdivisions of the state for the purpose of implementing a training project under the program.

Upon appropriation of funds to the Missouri One Start Job Development Fund, this bill allows a local education agency to petition the department to utilize the fund to create or improve training facilities, equipment, staff, expertise, programming, and administration. The department may award moneys from the fund for reimbursement of training project costs and services as it deems necessary.

This bill gives the department the discretion to determine the appropriate amount of funds to allocate to a training project from the Missouri One Start Community College New Jobs and Retained Jobs Training funds.

Any agreement or obligation entered into by the department that was made under the provisions of the Missouri Works Training Program prior to the effective date of this bill shall remain in effect according to the provisions of such agreement or obligation.

This bill is similar to HB 469 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill revises the Missouri One Start Program. The bill will meet the needs of those who are attempting to expand and grow their business in Missouri. Supporters say that this bill builds upon the existing Missouri Works Program and allows the new Missouri One Start Program to be more flexible and competitive. Supporters also claimed that this bill addresses the issue that there is a shortage of qualified workers in the state. This bill will help train and retain employees.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wallingford; Missouri Economic Development Council; Missouri Chamber Of Commerce & Industry; Associated Industries of Missouri; and Missouri Department of Economic Development.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.