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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - JOBS MATCH PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Lynch, Paiva Weed, Bates, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: March 01, 2012

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 28 of the General Laws entitled "LABOR AND LABOR  
2 RELATIONS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 55

4 THE RHODE ISLAND ENHANCED JOBS MATCH PROGRAM

5 **28-55-1. Short title. --** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Rhode  
6 Island Enhanced Jobs Match Program Act."

7 **28-55-2. Legislative findings. --** The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

8 (1) Rhode Island's statewide career pathways systems must be driven by local business  
9 and industry needs;

10 (2) Despite high unemployment, businesses report difficulties and frustration in locating  
11 employment candidates with the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities they need;

12 (3) Locating, training and preparing candidates to fill job openings is an expense that few  
13 companies can afford;

14 (4) The state needs a focused interagency collaboration to provide easy access for  
15 businesses to find competent employees and job seekers to obtain necessary resources, training  
16 and skills development;

17 (5) The state needs to build upon the efforts of the department of labor and training to  
18 facilitate employers' access to high quality, skilled job seekers and reduce the number of  
19 unemployed individuals in Rhode Island.

1           **28-55-3. The Rhode Island enhanced job match system. --** On or before January 1,  
2 2013, the department of labor and training shall prepare a request for proposals to implement on  
3 or before July 1, 2013, the Enhanced Job Match System which shall utilize the current department  
4 of labor and training web-based workforce and job system as a basis, with significant  
5 enhancements, as follows:

6           (1) It shall be easy for employers to participate in, update and receive responses from job  
7 seekers, addressing potential barriers to participation;

8           (2) It shall be understandable, accessible and productive for job seekers, including  
9 measures to ensure language and literacy based accessibility;

10          (3) It shall allow for the prompt identification of workers who are partial, but not full  
11 matches for job openings, resulting in timely skill gap remediation plans;

12          (4) It shall have the ability to address identified skill gaps through the provision of  
13 training and/or education;

14          (5) It shall notify the department of labor and training of the nature of the skill gaps  
15 which exist between job openings and job seekers, and shall have the ability to aggregate skill  
16 gap reports for the department;

17          (6) It shall be promoted and advertised to maximize business and employment use; and

18          (7) In an effort to ensure that employers' hiring needs are being met, employers shall be  
19 encouraged to engage with the system and provide information pertaining to job openings and  
20 desired skill sets for potential new hires.

21           **28-55-4. Reporting. --** On or before October 1, 2012, the department of labor and  
22 training shall report to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house on the progress  
23 toward implementing the enhanced job match system, along with an estimate of the added costs  
24 related to the purchase of the enhancements listed in section 28-55-3.

25           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - JOBS MATCH PROGRAM

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1           This act would authorize the state department of labor and training to investigate the  
2 adoption of an enhanced jobs match system and estimate the cost of its implementation.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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