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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - THE RHODE ISLAND JOBS MATCH  
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, P Fogarty, Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, and Algieri

Date Introduced: February 26, 2013

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 JOBS MATCH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

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

7 **28-55-2. Legislative findings.** – The general assembly 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; and

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

1 [unemployed individuals in Rhode Island.](#)

2 **28-55-3. The Rhode Island enhanced job match system.** – [On or before July 2, 2014,](#)  
3 [the department of labor and training shall implement the jobs match enhancement program using](#)  
4 [the current department of labor and training web based workforce and job system as a basis, with](#)  
5 [significant 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 literacy-based accessibility;](#)

10 [\(3\) It shall allow for the prompt identification of workers who are partially, but not fully](#)  
11 [matched 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, 2013, the department of labor and training](#)  
22 [shall report to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives on the](#)  
23 [progress toward implementing the jobs match enhancement program, along with an estimate of](#)  
24 [any additional costs related to the purchase of the enhancements listed in section 28-55-3.](#)

25 **28-55-5. Funding.** – [The implementation of enhancements to the department of labor and](#)  
26 [training's web based workforce and job system shall be contingent upon available public and/ or](#)  
27 [private financing.](#)

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - THE RHODE ISLAND JOBS MATCH  
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

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- 1           This act would establish the Rhode Island jobs match enhancement program to streamline
- 2           and enhance the efficiency of the department of labor and training.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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