

2014 -- S 2825

=====  
LC005269  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - HUMAN RESOURCE  
INVESTMENT COUNCIL

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, Doyle, Miller, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: March 25, 2014

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-102-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-102 entitled "Rhode  
2 Island Human Resource Investment Council" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-102-11. State Work Immersion Program.** -- (a) (1) The council shall develop a state  
4 work immersion program ~~and a non-trade apprenticeship program~~. For the purposes of this  
5 section work immersion shall mean a temporary, paid work experience that provides a  
6 meaningful learning opportunity and increases the employability of the participant. The programs  
7 shall be designed in order to provide post-secondary school students and unemployed adults with  
8 a meaningful work experience, and to assist businesses by training individuals for potential  
9 employment.

10 (2) Funding for the work immersion program will be allocated from the job development  
11 fund account and/or from funds appropriated in the annual appropriations act. Appropriated funds  
12 will match investments made by businesses in providing meaningful work immersion positions  
13 ~~and non-trade apprenticeships~~.

14 (b) For each participant in the work immersion program, the program shall reimburse  
15 eligible businesses up to fifty percent (50%) of the cost of not more than two hundred (200) hours  
16 of work experience and during a period of ten (10) weeks. If an eligible business hires a program  
17 participant at the completion of such a program, the state may provide reimbursement for a total  
18 of seventy-five percent (75%) of the cost of the work immersion position.

1 ~~(c) The council shall create a non-trade apprenticeship program and annually award~~  
2 ~~funding on a competitive basis to at least one new initiative proposed and operated by the~~  
3 ~~Governor's Workforce Board Industry Partnerships. This program shall meet the standards of~~  
4 ~~apprenticeship programs defined pursuant to section 28-45-9 of the general laws. The council~~  
5 ~~shall present the program to the State Apprenticeship Council, established pursuant to chapter 28-~~  
6 ~~45 of the general laws, for review and consideration.~~

7 ~~(d)~~ (c) An eligible participant in the programs established in ~~subsections~~ subsection (b)  
8 ~~and (e)~~ must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must be a Rhode Island resident. Provided,  
9 however, any non-Rhode Island resident, who is enrolled in a college or university located in  
10 Rhode Island, is eligible to participate while enrolled at the college or university.

11 ~~(e)~~ (d) In order to fully implement the provisions of this section, the council is authorized  
12 to promulgate rules and regulations. In developing rules and regulations, the council shall consult  
13 with the Governor's Workforce Board. The rules and regulations shall define eligible businesses  
14 that can participate in the programs created by this section.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 42-102 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Human  
16 Resource Investment Council" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

17 **42-102-12. Non-trade apprenticeship program. – (a) Program establishment. The**  
18 **council shall create a non-trade apprenticeship program and annually award funding on a**  
19 **competitive basis to at least one new initiative proposed and operated by the governor's**  
20 **workforce board industry partnerships. This program shall meet the standards of apprenticeship**  
21 **programs defined pursuant to § 28-45-9. The council shall present the program to the state**  
22 **apprenticeship council, established pursuant to chapter 45 of title 28, for review and**  
23 **consideration.**

24 **(b) Program incentive. Contingent upon annual appropriation, for each apprentice**  
25 **enrolled in a non-trade apprenticeship program established pursuant to this section, the council**  
26 **shall establish a wage reimbursement incentive, in accordance with the following provisions:**

27 **(i) Reimbursement would be allowed for the participating business of up to fifty percent**  
28 **(50%) of actual wages paid to the apprentice, or one thousand dollars (\$1,000), whichever is less;**

29 **(ii) The maximum that any one employer may receive within any twelve (12) month**  
30 **period under the terms of this section is five thousand dollars (\$5,000); and**

31 **(iii) An employer shall not be eligible for the wage reimbursement for an apprentice**  
32 **under the terms of this section until after the completion of the probationary period required**  
33 **pursuant to § 28-45-9(2)(viii).**

34 **(c) In order to fully implement the provisions of this section, the council is authorized to**

1 [promulgate rules and regulations. In developing rules and regulations, the council shall consult](#)  
2 [with the governor's workforce board. The rules and regulations shall define eligible employers](#)  
3 [that can participate in the program created by this section.](#)

4 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC005269  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - HUMAN RESOURCE  
INVESTMENT COUNCIL

\*\*\*

1           This act would provide for a wage reimbursement incentive for employers participating  
2 in the non-trade apprenticeship program and permits the human resource development council to  
3 establish rules and regulations for the program.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC005269  
=====