

2015 -- H 5088

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LC000411
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- BONUS PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, and Edwards

Date Introduced: January 14, 2015

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40-6.3 of the General Laws entitled "Bonus Program" is hereby
2 repealed in its entirety.

3 ~~CHAPTER 40-6.3~~

4 ~~Bonus Program~~

5 ~~**40-6.3-1. Bonus program.** --- The director of human services (hereinafter referred to as~~
6 ~~the "director") shall implement a cash bonus program for one year for welfare recipients who~~
7 ~~have been receiving aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) for a period of at least thirty~~
8 ~~(30) consecutive months next prior to the effective date of this chapter. The recipients agree to~~
9 ~~forego all welfare benefits of whatever nature and return to full time employment, except any~~
10 ~~medical assistance coverage in conformity with rules and regulations promulgated by the director.~~
11 ~~The program shall be limited to the first one hundred (100) recipients who choose to participate~~
12 ~~and are otherwise qualified. Applications for the bonus program will be accepted commencing~~
13 ~~thirty (30) days after the start of the state's fiscal year and terminating ninety (90) days after the~~
14 ~~start of the state's fiscal year or as soon as the first one hundred (100) recipients have been~~
15 ~~qualified for acceptance into the program.~~

16 ~~**40-6.3-2. Disbursement of bonus.** --- (a) The director is hereby authorized to approve a~~
17 ~~maximum bonus for each qualified recipient in the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000). The~~
18 ~~amount shall be distributed as follows:~~

19 ~~(1) After the recipient completes three (3) months of continuous full time employment,~~

1 ~~the director shall distribute to each recipient the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500);~~

2 ~~(2) After the recipient completes six (6) months of continuous full-time employment, the~~
3 ~~director shall distribute to each recipient the additional sum of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750);~~

4 ~~(3) After the recipient completes nine (9) months of continuous full-time employment,~~
5 ~~the director shall distribute to each recipient the additional sum of seven hundred fifty dollars~~
6 ~~(\$750); and~~

7 ~~(4) After the recipient completes twelve (12) months of continuous full-time~~
8 ~~employment, the director shall distribute to each recipient the additional sum of one thousand~~
9 ~~dollars (\$1,000).~~

10 ~~(b) In the event any recipient becomes unemployed at any time during the program, the~~
11 ~~recipient shall forfeit receipt of any incremental payment of a bonus not fully earned at the time~~
12 ~~of unemployment.~~

13 ~~**40-6.3-3. Initial training and work experience.** -- A participant in this program shall be~~
14 ~~required to participate in an eight (8) week period of training and work experience. The period~~
15 ~~shall not be included when determining the time of disbursement as set forth in § 40-6.3-2. The~~
16 ~~training and work experience period may be "on-the-job" training conducted by the employer or~~
17 ~~such other training and work experience as authorized by the director. A participant in this~~
18 ~~program shall be paid, at the least, the state minimum wage during the eight (8) week period of~~
19 ~~training and work experience.~~

20 ~~**40-6.3-4. Private participation.** -- (a) Any employer who participates in this program~~
21 ~~shall be entitled to a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250) tax credit per participant when a participant~~
22 ~~has worked twenty-four (24) consecutive months for the employer. The eight (8) week period of~~
23 ~~training and work experience set forth in § 40-6.3-3 shall not count when determining the twenty-~~
24 ~~four (24) consecutive months.~~

25 ~~(b) During the eight (8) week training and work experience period, the state shall~~
26 ~~subsidize the employer for wages earned by the participant. The rate of subsidy shall not exceed~~
27 ~~the state minimum wage.~~

28 ~~(c) The employer shall, as soon as possible, place the participant on any medical plan or~~
29 ~~insurance provided by the employer to any other employee at the same or similar level.~~

30 ~~**40-6.3-5. Rules and regulations.** -- The director shall promulgate such rules and~~
31 ~~regulations as are necessary to determine the qualifications for the recipients to participate in this~~
32 ~~pilot program, for determining the standards relating to "continuous employment," for~~
33 ~~determining the conditions terminating participation resulting from a recipient's unemployment,~~
34 ~~for subsidizing the wage of participants, for determining the type of eight (8) week period of~~

1 ~~training and work experience, for transitional medical assistance, and to otherwise effectuate this~~
2 ~~bonus program.~~

3 ~~**40-6.3-6. Appropriation.** --- There is hereby appropriated the sum of two hundred fifty~~
4 ~~thousand dollars (\$250,000) to carry out the purpose of this chapter, and the state controller is~~
5 ~~hereby directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of the sum,~~
6 ~~or so much thereof as may be required from time to time upon receipt by him or her of vouchers~~
7 ~~duly authenticated.~~

8 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 HUMAN SERVICES -- BONUS PROGRAM

1 This act would repeal the bonus program administered by the department of human
2 services.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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