

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD WORK WITH THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE EXPANSION OF NEW SKILLS AND COMPETENCY BASED APPRENTICESHIPS IN A FULL ARRAY OF SECTORS AND TO ASSIST EMPLOYERS THROUGH THE PROCESS OF INITIATING A NEW REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Pearson, and Algieri

Date Introduced: April 27, 2017

Referred To: Senate Labor

1 WHEREAS, An apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job learning and related
2 classroom instruction in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly
3 skilled occupation; and

4 WHEREAS, Apprenticeships provide workers with practical skills and expand the pool
5 of skilled workers in sectors where employers cannot find the workers they need; and

6 WHEREAS, America's youngest workers tend to experience the most drastic drop in
7 employment as measured by the employment to population ratio during a recession; and

8 WHEREAS, A 2012 report by Mathematica Policy Research estimated the government
9 tax return for each dollar invested in Registered Apprenticeships are more than twenty-seven
10 dollars per dollar invested, and on average, total benefits reach more than thirty-five dollars per
11 dollar; and

12 WHEREAS, Employers also realize financial benefits associated with apprenticeship
13 programs, gaining on average one dollar and forty seven cents per dollar invested in an
14 apprentice; and

15 WHEREAS, Rhode Island currently has traditional apprenticeship programs with over
16 one thousand and four hundred apprentices, mostly within a construction trade, and has begun
17 expansion into nontraditional apprenticeship program; and

1 WHEREAS, Opportunities and challenges exist to more fully expand such programs to
2 meet the needs of our workers and employers and to maximize the return on investment; now,
3 therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
5 hereby respectfully requests that the Governor's Work Force Board work with the Rhode Island
6 Department of Labor and Training develop a plan for the comprehensive expansion of new skills
7 and competency based apprenticeships in a full array of sectors and to assist employers through
8 the process of initiating a New Registered Apprenticeship Program; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that a progress report on the
10 status and expansion of apprenticeship programs in Rhode Island be submitted to the Senate
11 President and the Senate Majority Leader on or before January 1, 2018; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Executive Director and Chairperson of the
14 Governor's Work Force Board, and the Director of the Department of Labor and Training.

=====
LC002296
=====