

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 356

BY SENATOR JACKSON-ANDREWS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. Provides for workforce training and education initiative for public assistance recipients. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 46:353(A) and to enact R.S.
3 46:353(A)(1)(o) through (s), relative to workforce training initiative; to provide
4 relative to public assistance programs; to establish a workforce training pilot
5 initiative to serve public assistance recipients in certain regions; to provide for
6 interagency collaboration in administering the pilot initiative; to provide for the
7 advisory board; to provide for duties of the executive director of the Louisiana
8 Workforce Commission, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family
9 Services, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the state
10 superintendent of education with respect to the pilot initiative; to provide for
11 administrative rulemaking; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 46:353(A) is hereby amended and
14 reenacted and R.S. 46:353(A)(1)(o) through (s) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §353. ~~Workforce~~ **Louisiana's pathway to independency** workforce training and
16 education **pilot** initiative; creation; advisory board; functions

17 A.(1) Subject to applicable federal law and regulation, there is hereby

1 established a workforce training and education **pilot** initiative for public assistance
 2 recipients for the purpose of improving employment opportunities and promoting
 3 workforce advancement. The heads of the state partners in collaboration with an
 4 advisory board shall administer the initiative in accordance with the provisions of
 5 this Part. The advisory board shall consist of the following members:

6 * * *

7 **o. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Concordia**
 8 **parish.**

9 **p. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Madison**
 10 **parish.**

11 **q. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Morehouse**
 12 **parish.**

13 **r. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Richland**
 14 **parish.**

15 **s. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Tensas**
 16 **parish.**

17 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Yoursheka D. Butler.

DIGEST

SB 356 Original

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Jackson-Andrews

Present law provides that the executive director of the La. Workforce Commission, the secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services, the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health, the state superintendent of education, and the president of the La. Community and Technical College System, referred to collectively as the "state partners", collaborate to design and implement a workforce training and education initiative for public assistance recipients. Provides that the initiative's purposes are to improve employment opportunities for and promote workforce advancement. Present law provides for an advisory board to assist the state partners. Provides for the advisory board membership and meetings.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the following advisory board members:

1. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Concordia parish.
2. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Madison parish.
3. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Morehouse parish.

4. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Richland parish.
5. The executive director of a workforce investment board in Tensas parish.

Present law requires the state partners to design the initiative's operations and system of services to facilitate replication of the program in all regions of the state. Proposed law retains present law and requires, prior to the design and implementation of the initiative, the advisory board to conduct meetings for the purpose of receiving public input regarding the program.

Present law provides for the pilot initiative to operate and serve participants in certain regions. Proposed law changes the initial areas served to the following parishes: Concordia, East Carroll, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, St. Landry, and Tensas.

Present law provides that, if agreed to by the head of each state partner, the partners may expand the geographic service area of the pilot initiative beyond the initial regions. Proposed law retains present law but removes the requirement for agreement by each state partner.

Present law provides for the duties of the state partners in implementing and administering the initiative. Proposed law retains present law but makes technical changes.

Present law provides for the state partners to submit annual reports providing a summary and evaluation of the initiative's outcomes to the legislative committees on labor and industrial relations and to the legislative committees on health and welfare. Proposed law retains present law and provides for the annual report to be provided to the advisory board.

Proposed law retains present law and changes the name from "Workforce Training and Education Initiative" to "Louisiana's Pathway to Independency Workforce Training and Education Pilot Initiative".

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 46:353(A)(1)(intro para); adds R.S. 46:353(A)(1)(o)-(s))