
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 778 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, ISAACSON,
SCHLOSSBERG, FREEMAN, DEASY, SCHWEYER, CIRESI AND
PISCIOTTANO, MARCH 4, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MARCH 4, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114),
2 entitled "An act establishing a unified workforce investment
3 system; restructuring certain administrative functions,
4 procedures and entities; transferring workforce development
5 functions of Commonwealth agencies; establishing the
6 Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board; providing for
7 critical job training grants, for guarantees for program
8 quality and performance for workforce development programs,
9 for workforce leadership grants and for industry
10 partnerships; establishing the Keystone Works Program; and
11 authorizing local workforce investment boards," in industry
12 partnerships, further providing for definitions, for industry
13 clusters, for grant program, for grant program operation, for
14 interdepartmental cooperation and for industry and labor
15 market research.

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
17 hereby enacts as follows:

18 Section 1. The definition of "industry partnership" in
19 section 1301 of the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114),
20 known as the Workforce Development Act, is amended to read:

21 Section 1301. Definitions.

22 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
23 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
24 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 * * *

2 "Industry partnership." A collaboration which brings
3 together multiple employers and workers or[, when appropriate,]
4 worker representatives and career and technical educators, in a
5 targeted industry cluster to address common workforce needs.

6 * * *

7 Section 2. Section 1302(b) of the act is amended by adding a
8 paragraph to read:

9 Section 1302. Industry clusters.

10 * * *

11 (b) Identification of targeted industry clusters.--The
12 department shall work with State and regional workforce and
13 economic development agencies, with input from regional business
14 and labor leaders, to identify which industry clusters shall be
15 targeted for workforce and economic development investments
16 based on:

17 * * *

18 (7) The availability of career and technical educational
19 resources in a region.

20 * * *

21 Section 3. Section 1303(b) (1) and (2) of the act are amended
22 to read:

23 Section 1303. Grant program.

24 * * *

25 (b) Use of grant funding.--Industry partnerships shall, to
26 the extent funds are available, use a grant awarded under this
27 section to do any of the following:

28 (1) Organize businesses, employers, workers, career and
29 technical educators, labor organizations and industry
30 associations into a collaborative structure that supports the

1 sharing of information, ideas and challenges common to their
2 industry cluster.

3 (2) Identify the training needs of multiple businesses,
4 including skill gaps critical to competitiveness and
5 innovation to their industry cluster and the availability of
6 career and technical resources for their industry cluster.

7 * * *

8 Section 4. Section 1304 of the act is amended by adding a
9 paragraph to read:

10 Section 1304. Grant program operation.

11 In order to receive grant funding under this section, an
12 industry partnership must, in its grant application, do all of
13 the following:

14 * * *

15 (5) If feasible, show evidence of participation of
16 career and technical educators in industry partnerships.

17 Section 5. Sections 1307(c) (4) (viii) and 1308 of the act are
18 amended to read:

19 Section 1307. Interdepartmental cooperation.

20 * * *

21 (c) Agencies.--The following agencies shall work with the
22 department as set forth below:

23 * * *

24 (4) The Department of Education shall:

25 * * *

26 (viii) [Within two years following the effective
27 date of this act, regulations may] Regulations shall be
28 promulgated by the Department of Education in
29 consultation with career and technical school
30 administrators. The regulations shall conform to career

1 and technical schools' needs and assist to align their
2 needs with employer demands. Incentives shall be included
3 to increase alignment. Until this program and regulations
4 are in effect, secondary career and technical schools and
5 programs shall not be required to meet the requirements
6 for high-priority occupations for program approval.

7 * * *

8 Section 1308. Industry and labor market research.

9 (a) Research.--The department shall provide the necessary
10 industry and labor market research to support and further
11 develop the work of industry partnerships, including:

12 (1) Providing current data on all targeted industry
13 clusters.

14 (2) Providing the most current available analysis of
15 industry employment in this Commonwealth for the purpose of
16 determining trends in this Commonwealth which may lead to
17 changes in the targeted industry clusters.

18 (3) Maintaining and updating the annual list of this
19 Commonwealth's high-priority occupations.

20 (4) Providing the most currently available analysis of
21 high-priority occupations for the purpose of determining
22 trends which may lead to adjustments to the list.

23 (b) Sources.--In providing industry and labor market
24 research under subsection (a), the department may provide real-
25 time labor market data by utilizing credible research, analyses
26 and data from nongovernmental sources.

27 Section 6. This act shall take effect in 60 days.