



2013 SENATE BILL 44

February 28, 2013 – Introduced by Senators LASSA, SHILLING, LEHMAN, C. LARSON, MILLER, JAUCH and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives DOYLE, BARCA, DANOU, KRUG, JORGENSEN, HULSEY, HEBL, BERNARD SCHABER, BERCEAU, KAHL, MILROY, RICHARDS, KOLSTE, RINGHAND, OHNSTAD and JOHNSON. Referred to Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 38.28 (1m) (a) 1.; and **to create** 20.292 (1) (aj) and 38.39 of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** workforce growth grants to technical college districts and
3 making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill allows a technical college district board to obtain grants from the Technical College System Board for the purpose of partnering with a business, consortium of businesses, economic development organization, or local workforce development board in a project to help meet local needs for supporting economic sectors with a documented skills gap or high workforce shortage, including manufacturing, energy, information technology, skilled trades, and health care. A project may provide for activities that address development of individuals prior to entering the workforce and workforce training, including any of the following: 1) job training scholarships based on local labor market needs; 2) building or infrastructure construction; 3) equipment and material purchases; 4) faculty hiring; 5) development of certain curricula; or 6) student career support services, including job placement and business recruitment. The bill directs the Technical College System Board to award grants to technical college districts that apply to the board to fund the costs of such projects. In awarding the grants, the bill requires the Technical College System Board to consider the speed by which the activities specified in applications could meet training and employment needs and give a preference to projects that seek to eliminate waiting lists for courses pertaining to jobs with high employment demand.

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1 **38.39 Workforce growth program. (1)** A district board may obtain grants
2 under sub. (2) for the purpose of partnering with a business, consortium of
3 businesses, local workforce development board established under 29 USC 2832, or
4 economic development organization, that is located or provides service in the district,
5 in a project to help meet local needs for supporting sectors of the economy with a
6 documented skills gap or high workforce shortage, which could include
7 manufacturing, energy, information technology, skilled trades, and health care. A
8 project may provide for activities that address development of individuals prior to
9 entering the workforce and workforce training, which could include one or more of
10 the following:

11 (a) Job training scholarships based on local labor market needs.

12 (b) Building or infrastructure construction.

13 (c) Equipment and material purchases.

14 (d) Faculty hiring.

15 (e) Development in partnership with industry of curricula, based on industry
16 standards, that lead to certificates or degrees.

17 (f) Student career support services, including job placement and business
18 recruitment.

19 **(2)** From the appropriation under s. 20.292 (1) (aj), the board shall award
20 grants to district boards that apply to the board to fund the costs of projects under
21 sub. (1). The board shall consider the speed by which the activities specified in
22 applications could meet training and employment needs and give a preference in
23 awarding the grants to projects that seek to eliminate waiting lists for courses
24 pertaining to jobs with high employment demand.

25 **SECTION 5. Effective date.**

