



2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 947

March 11, 2008 - Introduced by Representatives MASON, TOLES, A. WILLIAMS, GRIGSBY, TURNER and BERCEAU, cosponsored by Senators PLALE and LEHMAN. Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 38.28 (1m) (a) 1.; and *to create* 20.292 (1) (cr) and 38.31 of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** grants to technical college districts to reduce
3 unemployment, granting rule-making authority, and making an
4 appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill directs the Technical College System (WTCS) Board to award grants to technical college districts for programs that assist in reducing unemployment. To be eligible for a grant, a technical college district must include a labor surplus area, as designated by the federal Department of Labor. Under the bill, grants are available for three specified purposes:

1. To recruit, enroll, instruct, provide support services to, and pay the tuition and fees of dislocated workers who reside in a labor surplus area and enroll in the district. A dislocated worker is a person who has been laid off or terminated from employment and meets certain additional criteria; a person who was self-employed but is unemployed as a result of economic conditions or natural disasters; or a displaced homemaker.

2. To recruit, enroll, instruct, and provide services to adults who reside in a labor surplus area and enroll in the district in a program leading to a certificate of general educational development (GED) or a high school equivalency diploma.

3. To expand existing capacity or create capacity in district programs for which there are student waiting lists or that address projected workforce needs in the district.

ASSEMBLY BILL 947

1 38.33, and 38.38, all fees collected under s. 38.24, and driver education and chauffeur
2 training aids.

3 **SECTION 4.** 38.31 of the statutes is created to read:

4 **38.31 Grants to reduce unemployment. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

5 (a) "Dislocated worker" has the meaning given in 29 USC 2801 (9).

6 (b) "Labor surplus area" means a geographical area identified by the federal
7 department of labor as an area of concentrated unemployment or underemployment
8 or an area of labor surplus.

9 **(2) GRANTS.** The board shall award grants to district boards of districts that
10 include a labor surplus area for the following programs:

11 (a) To recruit, enroll, instruct, provide support services to, and pay the tuition
12 and fees of dislocated workers who reside in a labor surplus area and enroll in the
13 district in an associate degree program, collegiate transfer program, vocational
14 diploma program, or vocational-adult program.

15 (b) To recruit, enroll, instruct, and provide support services to adults who reside
16 in a labor surplus area and enroll in the district in a program leading to a certificate
17 of general educational development or a high school equivalency diploma.

18 (c) To expand existing capacity or create capacity in district board programs for
19 which there are student waiting lists or that address projected workforce needs in
20 the district.

21 **(3) PREFERENCE.** The board shall give preference in awarding grants under this
22 section to programs serving persons residing in areas with the highest
23 unemployment rates.

