



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 123
[2011 Assembly Bill 450]

**Occupational Training for
Unemployment Insurance
Claimants**

2011 Wisconsin Act 123 requires the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to administer a pilot program that offers special occupational training to UI claimants in three areas of the state, designated by DWD, that are served by local workforce development boards. Under the Act, the pilot program sunsets on July 1, 2013.

Under the program, employers offer special occupational training to UI claimants. For an employer to participate in the program, the employer must affirm that it has one job opening for each training participant that it seeks in a position that a successful participant would potentially qualify to fill. A placement in the program occurs during an individual's UI benefit year. An individual may not receive a placement for any period that includes a week beginning after the end of the first 26 weeks of the individual's benefit year. An individual may receive no more than two placements in the program during his or her benefit year. Each placement is for a period not exceeding six weeks, with training between 20 and 24 hours per week. An individual generally must maintain his or her eligibility for UI benefits during the placement and must terminate a placement if necessary to accept any work that the individual is required to accept in order to maintain eligibility for UI benefits. However, an individual participating in the program has good cause to refuse suitable work if DWD determines that there is a reasonable expectation that the individual will receive an offer of full-time work at the end of the placement.

In addition, DWD must pay a stipend of \$75 per week to each individual who participates in the program. DWD is not required to pay a stipend to an individual who declines the stipend for the entire period of a placement and notifies DWD, in writing, of the declination. Upon successful completion of each placement, DWD must issue to the individual a training certificate that describes the skills in which the individual received training.

Further, for purposes of worker's compensation, an individual who participates in the program is considered an employee of the employer that provides the training.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

Lastly, the Act requires DWD, no later than May 30, 2013, to submit a report to the Legislature that evaluates the effectiveness of the program and provides DWD's recommendations concerning extension of the program or changes to the program that may enhance its effectiveness.

Effective date: The Act takes effect on March 27, 2012.

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