



## 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 471

September 16, 1999 - Introduced by Representatives SCHOOFF, KRUG, RILEY, BALOW, RYBA, SYKORA, PLALE, RICHARDS, PLOUFF, SERATTI, MILLER, J. LEHMAN, SINICKI, HASENOHRL, LASSA, HUBER, POCAN, STASKUNAS, GRONEMUS, TURNER, COGGS, BOCK, CARPENTER, BLACK, BOYLE, KREUSER, YOUNG, BERCEAU and WAUKAU, cosponsored by Senators CLAUSING, ROBSON, DRZEWIECKI, ERPENBACH, SCHULTZ and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Small Business and Economic Development.

1     **AN ACT to repeal and recreate** 20.143 (1) (c); and **to create** 20.143 (1) (Lm) and  
2             560.155 of the statutes; **relating to:** providing financial assistance to small  
3             businesses for training employes and making an appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

The department of commerce administers a number of grant and loan programs under current law, providing incentives and assistance to businesses and other persons related to technology, employment, environmental remediation and business and other economic development. Many of these programs are funded from a general purpose revenue appropriation known as the Wisconsin development fund. This bill creates a new financial assistance program called the business employes' skills training financial assistance program, to be funded from the Wisconsin development fund.

Under the program, the department of commerce may award financial assistance, not exceeding \$10,000 and consisting of one-half grant and one-half loan, to a business that has no more than 35 full-time employes or that has no more than \$2,500,000 in gross annual income. A business that receives financial assistance must use it to provide skills training or other education related to its business needs to current or prospective employes. Before providing the skills training or other education to a current or prospective employe, the business and employe must enter into an agreement under which the business agrees to retain the employe, and the employe agrees to work for the business, for at least one year after the training or other education is completed. The business is required to submit a



**ASSEMBLY BILL 471**

1 schedule, \$125,000 shall be allocated in each of 4 consecutive fiscal years, beginning  
2 with fiscal year 1998-99, for grants and loans under s. 560.62 (1) (a).

3 **SECTION 3.** 20.143 (1) (Lm) of the statutes is created to read:

4 20.143 (1) (Lm) *Business employes' skills training financial assistance;*  
5 *repayments.* All moneys received in repayment of loans under s. 560.155 for financial  
6 assistance under s. 560.155.

7 **SECTION 4.** 560.155 of the statutes is created to read:

8 **560.155 Business employes' skills training financial assistance**  
9 **program.** (1) From the appropriations under s. 20.143 (1) (c) and (Lm), the  
10 department may award financial assistance as provided in sub. (2) to a business if  
11 all of the following apply:

12 (a) The business is located in this state and satisfies any of the following  
13 criteria:

14 1. The business has no more than 35 full-time employes.

15 2. The business had no more than \$2,500,000 in gross annual income in the  
16 year preceding the year in which the business receives the financial assistance.

17 (b) The business uses the financial assistance to provide skills training or other  
18 education related to the needs of the business to current or prospective employes of  
19 the business.

20 (c) The business submits a plan to the department detailing the proposed use  
21 of the financial assistance and the secretary approves the plan.

22 (d) The business enters into a written agreement with the department that  
23 specifies the conditions for the use of the financial assistance, including reporting,  
24 auditing and repayment requirements.

