



2013 SENATE BILL 335

October 4, 2013 - Introduced by Senators HARSDORF, LEIBHAM, DARLING, SHILLING, ERPENBACH, COWLES, C. LARSON, SCHULTZ, LASSA and LEHMAN, cosponsored by Representatives NERISON, TRANEL, PETRYK, PRIDEMORE, BERNIER, BORN, WEATHERSTON, NYGREN, BALLWEG, LEMAHIEU, A. OTT, KAUFERT, NASS, KLEEFISCH, RIPP, T. LARSON, MARKLEIN, KRUG, JACQUE, CZAJA and ENDSLEY. Referred to Committee on Economic Development and Local Government.

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.445 (1) (d) and 106.05 of the statutes; **relating to:** a tuition
2 reimbursement program for apprentices and employers, granting rule-making
3 authority, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, any person 16 years of age or over may enter into an indenture, which is a contract whereby the person (apprentice) is to receive from his or her employer, in consideration for the apprentice's services, instruction in any trade, craft, or business. That instruction may include related classroom instruction.

This bill requires the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to administer a tuition reimbursement program under which DWD may reimburse, as provided in the bill, the cost of tuition incurred by a person who has completed an apprenticeship program and who is employed in the trade, craft, or business in which the person was trained under the apprenticeship program or incurred by the person's employer. Under the bill, the amount of that reimbursement is 25 percent of the cost of tuition incurred by the person or employer or \$1,000, whichever is less, except that if the amount of funds applied for exceeds the amount available for tuition reimbursement, DWD may reduce the reimbursement percentage or deny applications for reimbursement that would otherwise qualify for reimbursement. In that case, DWD must determine the reimbursement percentage and eligibility on the basis of the dates on which applications for reimbursement were received.

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1 person who has completed an apprenticeship program and who is employed in the
2 trade, craft, or business in which the person was trained under the apprenticeship
3 program or incurred by the person's employer.

4 (b) *Application.* A person who meets the requirements specified in par. (a) or
5 the person's employer may apply for reimbursement under par. (c) for the cost of
6 tuition incurred by the person or employer by submitting an application to the
7 department that meets all of the following requirements:

8 1. Is received by the department within a time limit set by the department by
9 rule.

10 2. Contains all the information that the department determines is necessary
11 for the department to establish the eligibility of the person or employer for the
12 reimbursement.

13 3. Contains the signature of the person certifying that he or she has completed
14 an apprenticeship program and is employed in the trade, craft, or business in which
15 he or she was trained under the apprenticeship program, contains the signature of
16 the person's sponsor certifying that the person has completed an apprenticeship
17 program, and contains the signature of the person's employer certifying that the
18 person is employed in the trade, craft, or business in which he or she was trained
19 under the apprenticeship program.

20 4. Contains a statement signed by a representative of the technical college or
21 proprietary school providing the course for which the tuition was paid indicating the
22 amount of tuition paid and whether the tuition was paid by the person enrolled in
23 the course or the person's employer.

24 (c) *Reimbursement.* Subject to par. (d), if the department determines that a
25 person meets the requirements specified in par. (a), the department, from the

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1 appropriation under s. 20.445 (1) (d), shall reimburse the person or the person's
2 employer for 25 percent of the cost of tuition incurred by the person or employer or
3 in the amount of \$1,000, whichever is less.

4 (d) *Limitations.* 1. If the amount of funds applied for exceeds the amount
5 available under s. 20.445 (1) (d), the department may reduce the reimbursement
6 percentage or deny applications for reimbursement that would otherwise qualify
7 under this subsection. In that case, the department shall determine the
8 reimbursement percentage and eligibility on the basis of the dates on which
9 applications for reimbursement were received.

10 2. The department may provide reimbursement under this subsection to a
11 person who is delinquent in child support or maintenance payments or who owes
12 past support, medical expenses, or birth expenses, as established by appearance of
13 the person's name on the statewide support lien docket under s. 49.854 (2) (b), only
14 if the person provides the department with one of the following:

15 a. A repayment agreement that the person has entered into, that has been
16 accepted by the county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5), and that has been
17 kept current for the 6-month period immediately preceding the date of the
18 application.

19 b. A statement that the person is not delinquent in child support or
20 maintenance payments and does not owe past support, medical expenses, or birth
21 expenses, signed by the department of children and families or its designee within
22 7 working days before the date of the application.

23 (3) **RULES.** The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

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(END)