

ASSEMBLY, No. 4103

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 15, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Creates workforce training program for former casino workers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/10/2015)

1 AN ACT concerning workforce training programs for former casino
2 workers and amending and supplementing P.L.1992, c.43.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 9 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-9) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 9. a. A restricted, nonlapsing, revolving Workforce
10 Development Partnership Fund, to be managed and invested by the
11 State Treasurer, is hereby established to: provide employment and
12 training services to qualified displaced, disadvantaged and
13 employed workers by means of training grants or customized
14 training services; provide for the other costs indicated in subsection
15 a. of section 4 of this act; and facilitate the provision of education
16 and training to youth by means of grants provided by the Youth
17 Transitions to Work Partnership pursuant to the provisions of
18 P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-1 et al.). All appropriations to the fund,
19 all interest accumulated on balances in the fund and all cash
20 received for the fund from any other source shall be used solely for
21 the purposes specifically delineated by this act.

22 b. During any fiscal year beginning after June 30, 2001, of the
23 total revenues dedicated to the program during any one fiscal year:
24 25% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
25 Development Partnership Fund reserved to provide employment and
26 training services for qualified displaced workers; 6% shall be
27 deposited in an account of the Workforce Development Partnership
28 Fund reserved to provide employment and training services for
29 qualified disadvantaged workers; 45% shall be deposited in an
30 account of the Workforce Development Partnership Fund reserved
31 for and appropriated to the Office of Customized Training, of which
32 5% shall be dedicated for the Education Initiative for Former
33 Casino Workers pursuant to section 2 of P.L. c. (C.)
34 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), for such period of time
35 as there are eligible participants enrolled in the Initiative; 3% shall
36 be deposited in an account of the Workforce Development
37 Partnership Fund reserved for occupational safety and health
38 training; 5% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
39 Development Partnership Fund reserved for the Youth Transitions
40 to Work Partnership created pursuant to P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-
41 1 et seq.); 10% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
42 Development Partnership Fund reserved for administrative costs as
43 defined in section 3 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-3); 0.5% shall be
44 deposited in an account of the Workforce Development Partnership
45 Fund reserved for the State Employment and Training Commission

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 to design criteria and conduct an annual evaluation of the program;
2 and 5.5% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
3 Development Partnership Fund to be used, at the discretion of the
4 commissioner, for any of the purposes indicated in subsection a. of
5 section 4 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-4).

6 c. Beginning January 1, 1995, through June 30, 2002, the
7 balance in the fund as of the previous December 31, as determined
8 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, shall
9 not exceed 1.5 times the amount of contributions deposited for the
10 calendar year then ended. If the balance exceeds this amount, the
11 excess shall be deposited into the unemployment compensation
12 fund within seven business days of the date that the determination is
13 made.

14 d. Beginning July 1, 2002, and for any subsequent fiscal year,
15 if the unexpended cash balance in any of the accounts indicated in
16 subsection b. of this section, less any amount awarded in grants but
17 not yet disbursed from the account, is determined to exceed 20% of
18 the amount of contributions collected for deposit in the account
19 pursuant to this subsection during the fiscal year then ended, the
20 excess shall be regarded as an unemployment compensation
21 contribution and deposited into the unemployment compensation
22 fund within seven business days of the date that the determination is
23 made.

24 (cf: P.L.2001, c.152, s.12)

25
26 2. (New section) a. The department shall establish and
27 administer the Education Initiative for Former Casino Workers, as
28 follows:

29 (1) eligible participants shall be screened for career readiness
30 and provided a plan to access the training and education needed to
31 begin or transition to a new career;

32 (2) eligible participants shall be given the opportunity to enroll
33 in training and educational instruction that is intended to result in a
34 degree or training certificate conferred by a county college located
35 in the State;

36 (3) eligible participants may be provided access to training and
37 education pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1983, c.470 (C.18A:64A-
38 23.2), when available and appropriate;

39 (4) eligible participants shall be given the opportunity to enroll
40 in training and educational instruction that is intended to result in a
41 degree or training certificate offered by an approved training
42 provider;

43 (5) eligible participants shall be given the opportunity to enroll
44 in post-secondary education programs offered by a county
45 vocational school district;

46 (6) eligible participants shall be provided with financial
47 assistance, deemed acceptable and necessary through rules and
48 regulations promulgated by the department, to ensure their ability to

1 complete the training and educational instruction provided pursuant
2 to the Education Initiative for Former Casino Workers; and

3 (7) eligible participants shall be provided with financial
4 assistance, training and education for no longer than four years
5 from the date the participant enrolled in the initiative.

6 b. The department shall establish a list of necessary and
7 acceptable costs that will be funded through the Education Initiative
8 for Former Casino Workers, pursuant to section 9 of P.L.1992, c.43
9 (C.34:15D-9), including, but not limited to: tuition for county
10 college classes, for which there is not enough space for free
11 placement pursuant to Section 2 of P.L.1983, c.470 (C.18A:64A-
12 23.2); tuition or other enrollment fees for training provided by an
13 approved training provider; tuition or other enrollment fees for
14 post-secondary education at a county vocational school district;
15 books; transportation; and lab fees.

16 c. Funding provided for the Education Initiative for Former
17 Casino Workers, pursuant to section 9 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-
18 9), shall be used by the department to enable eligible participants to
19 complete the degree or certificate program in which they are
20 enrolled and no more than 10 percent of the dedicated funding shall
21 be used for administrative costs incurred by the department to
22 administer the Education Initiative for Former Casino Workers.

23 d. The Education Initiative for Former Casino Workers shall
24 accept new eligible participants for three years from the effective
25 date of P.L. c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
26 bill), except that the initiative shall not accept new eligible
27 participants if the average non-farm unemployment rate (not
28 seasonally adjusted) for three consecutive months in Atlantic
29 County, as reported by the department, is less than five percent.

30 e. As used in this section:

31 “Approved training provider” is an entity which has been
32 determined by the department to be eligible and included on the
33 State Eligible Training Provider List pursuant to P.L.2005, c.354,
34 s.14 (C.34:15C-10.2).

35 “Eligible participant” is an individual who is employed by a
36 casino licensee and has received notice of an impending lay off
37 within 60 days, or is a former employee of a casino licensee, who
38 has been laid off, furloughed or separated from employment by the
39 casino in the previous two years; and

40 “Casino licensee” means the holder of a casino license issued
41 pursuant to section 87 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-87), or interim
42 authorization granted pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1987, c.409
43 (C.5:12-95.12), that permits such holder to operate a casino within
44 Atlantic City.

45
46 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

Since January 2014, the Atlantic Club Casino Hotel, the Showboat Atlantic City Hotel and Casino, the Trump Plaza Casino, and the Revel Casino Hotel have ceased business operations, resulting in over 8,300 individuals becoming unemployed in Atlantic City. This is a devastating blow to a community that had already experienced an almost nine percent decrease in employment over the previous year. It is essential that the State assist these former employees with resources to access training and education to start a new career path.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development strives to identify the industries that are anticipated to experience growth in the future. It has identified seven of these key industries and has worked with its partners in education, business, and the community to develop job training programs which provide the education and workforce development needed to train the workforce for these industry sectors.

The closure of the casinos necessitates the State to put into action its plans to train individuals for a future workplace. This bill establishes a program, the Education Initiative for Former Casino Workers, which dedicates five percent of the 45 percent of reserved funds for customized training collected for the Workforce Development Partnership Fund to provide training and educational instruction to individuals who were formerly employed by a casino licensee in the previous two years or are employed and have received a notice of layoff.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development will screen eligible participants in the Education Initiative for Former Casino Workers for career readiness and develop and facilitate a plan to provide the training and education needed for these individuals to begin, or transition to, a new career.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development will ensure that the eligible individuals are enrolled in training and educational instruction at a county college, an approved training provider or a county vocational school district. Any additional costs determined by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to be acceptable, such as: tuition for classes or training; books; lab fees; and transportation will also be funded.

The Education Initiative for Former Casino Workers will accept new participants for three years after the date of enactment of this bill. Participants can access funding from the initiative for up to four years from the date of the participant's enrollment in the Initiative. The time limitation will allow participants to receive the needed assistance during this transition period as the Atlantic City economy adapts to meet the new business environment. The initiative will cease to accept new enrollees if the average

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- 1 unemployment rate in Atlantic County decreases below five percent
- 2 for three consecutive months.