

ACT No. 856

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 951

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAMBURG

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1514(D)(4) and 39:1554(T) and to enact R.S. 23:2065(A)(12) through (17) and 2092(A)(3) and R.S. 36:308(E), relative to a business workforce solutions program; to create the Office of Business Workforce Solutions within Louisiana Works; to provide for duties and functions of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council in conjunction with the Office of Business Workforce Solutions; to create the Business Workforce Committee; to exclude the Office of Business Workforce Solutions from the state procurement code; to provide for the purposes and functions of the Office of Business Workforce Solutions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:1514(D)(4) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 23:2065(A)(12) through (17) and 2092(A)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1514. Worker training fund; purpose; training programs; eligibility criteria; program administration

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(4) No more than ten percent of such amounts appropriated to the fund by the state legislature shall be used for the payment of expenses incurred for the administration of this account. Expenses related to employer outreach and engagement of the program are not considered administrative.

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§2065. Council duties and functions

A. The council shall do all of the following:

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(12) Provide oversight to ensure the state's workforce programs and resources are aligned to meet employer and labor market needs.

(13) Work to integrate other state agencies and workforce initiatives into a coordinated system.

(14) Oversee the coordination of training programs and workforce funding statewide.

(15) Ensure cooperation among agencies engaged in workforce training.

(16) Through the Business Workforce Committee, recommend performance metrics for the Office of Business Workforce Solutions.

(17) Ensure that outcomes are result-oriented and tied to employer needs.

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§2092. Organizational structure of standing committees

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(3)(a) The Business Workforce Committee shall be a committee of the council.

(b) The Business Workforce Committee shall be composed of seven members, with a majority of the members being business representatives and one member being the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, or their designees.

(c) The Business Workforce Committee shall do all of the following:

(i) Serve as the advisory committee to the Office of Business Workforce Solutions.

(ii) Provide input on the annual plan of work of the Office of Business Workforce Solutions.

(iii) Recommend candidates for the assistant secretary position within the Office of Business Workforce Solutions to the secretary of Louisiana Works, which shall be forwarded to the governor by the secretary for consideration.

(iv) Recommend performance metrics for the assistant secretary.

(v) Report annually to the council on the Office of Business Workforce

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Section 2. R.S. 36:308(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§308. Offices; purposes and functions

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E.(1) The Office of Business Workforce Solutions herein referred to as "the office" shall perform the functions of the state relating to business-related workforce services, providing both strategy and coordination of state, regional, and local workforce service providers across the state. The office shall manage business-related programs including Business Services, the Incumbent Worker Training Program, and federal funding related to layoff aversion and response, as well as other business-related programs and funding administered by Louisiana Works to be determined at the discretion of the secretary.

(2) The office shall perform all of the following functions of the state:

(a) Assisting businesses in accessing training resources and identifying
sources of talent from all local and statewide programs.

(b) Reviewing and mapping existing workforce programs statewide across all agencies, schools, postsecondary education, apprenticeships, training programs, nonprofits, and local and regional partners.

(c) Coordinating state agencies to ensure high quality, integrated regional workforce solutions are provided and taking into account the separate roles and responsibilities of each agency.

(d) Coordinating workforce services on a statewide and regional basis.

(e) Managing federal and state workforce development funds to support
business needs in high-demand, high-salary jobs and priority industry sectors.

(f) Aligning state and regional workforce development services with state
and regional economic development goals.

(g) Building customized workforce solutions for new and existing companies, in partnership with state departments, educational institutions, and other governmental and nongovernmental institutions and organizations.

(h) Assisting businesses in building talent pipelines through middle school career exposure, high school internship and apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, college internships, and pre-employment recruitment and training.

(i) Developing industry-specific training partnerships.

(j) Expanding work-based learning including apprenticeship programs.

(k) Promulgating rules and regulations.

(1) Providing financial oversight of workforce development programs.

(m) Developing operational policies subject to oversight from the secretary
and the Business Workforce Committee.

(n) Entering into contracts and agreements.

(o) Accepting grants, donations, and other funding resources.

(p) Coordinating with economic development organizations, agencies, and education providers.

(q) Providing regular workforce development reports including performance
data and economic impact analysis.

(r) Entering into non-disclosure agreements when it involves proprietary or confidential information related to economic development projects.

(s) Linking talent development to business recruitment, retention, and expansion.

Section 3. R.S. 39:1554(T) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1554. Application of this Chapter

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T.(1) This Chapter shall not apply to Louisiana Economic Development; however, Louisiana Economic Development shall be required to continue as a LaGov agency and shall adopt procurement provisions pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. The rules created by Louisiana Economic Development pursuant to this Subsection shall be subject to the approval

of the commissioner of administration before they are sent to committees required for review of agency rules in R.S. 49:966(B)(1). In addition, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance shall also have authority for review of agency rules as provided in R.S. 49:950 et seq.

(2) At the discretion of the secretary of Louisiana Works, this Chapter shall not apply to the Office of Business Workforce Solutions within Louisiana Works; however, the Office of Business Workforce Solutions shall be required to continue as an office within Louisiana Works and shall adopt procurement provisions pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. The rules created by the Office of Business Workforce Solutions pursuant to this Subsection shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of administration before the rules are sent to committees required by R.S. 49:966(B)(1). In addition, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance shall have the authority to review any rules in accordance with R.S. 49:950 et seq.

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Section 4. It is the intent of the legislature to create a new office within Louisiana Works, which shall be known as the Office of Business Workforce Solutions, for the purpose of performing functions of the state relating to business workforce solutions under the guidance and oversight of the secretary of Louisiana Works. The Office of Business Workforce Solutions shall serve as the primary office for business-related workforce solutions and development, managing funding and programs, and providing both strategy and coordination of state, regional, and local workforce service providers across the state.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____