

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 856 (HB 951)

2026 Regular Session

Bamburg

New law creates the office of business workforce solutions (office) within La. Works and provides for the duties, functions, and operation of the office.

Existing law provides for the establishment of a special account in the Employment Security Administration Fund, which shall be known as the Incumbent Worker Training Account.

Existing law requires monies from this account to be pledged and dedicated exclusively to fund training for businesses operating in the state that incur a state unemployment insurance tax liability. Existing law further provides that this program shall be known as the Incumbent Worker Training Program and provides its purpose.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law stipulates that no more than 10% of amounts appropriated to the Employment Security Administration Fund by the legislature shall be used for the payment of expenses incurred for the administration of the Incumbent Worker Training Account.

New law retains existing law and adds that the expenses related to employer outreach and engagement of the Incumbent Worker Training Program are not considered administrative.

Existing law provides a list of duties and functions that the La. Workforce Investment Council (council) shall perform.

New law adds the following duties and functions to the aforementioned list:

- (1) Provide oversight to ensure the state's workforce programs and resources are aligned to meet employer and labor market needs.
- (2) Work to integrate other state agencies and workforce initiatives into a coordinated system.
- (3) Oversee the coordination of training programs and workforce funding statewide.
- (4) Ensure cooperation among agencies engaged in workforce training.
- (5) Through the Business Workforce Committee, recommend performance metrics for the office.
- (6) Ensure that outcomes are result-oriented and tied to employer needs.

Existing law provides a list of standing committees within the council.

New law adds the Business Workforce Committee as a committee of the council.

New law provides that 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 La. Economic Development, or their respective designees.

New law requires the Business Workforce Committee to perform all of the following duties:

- (1) Serve as the advisory committee to the office.
- (2) Provide input on the office's annual plan of work.
- (3) Recommend candidates for the assistant secretary position within the office to the secretary of La. Works and forward those recommendations to the governor for consideration.
- (4) Recommend performance metrics for the assistant secretary.

(5) Report annually to the council on the office's results.

New law provides for the functions of the office.

New law provides that the office shall be exempted from the La. Procurement Code; however, the office shall be required to continue as an office and allowed to adopt procurement provisions in accordance with existing law (R.S. 49:950 et seq.)

New law requires any rules created by the office to be subject to approval by the commissioner of administration before being sent to committees as required by existing law (R.S. 49:966(B)(1)).

New law provides that the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance shall have the authority to review any rules in accordance with existing law (R.S. 49:950 et seq.)

New law provides for legislative intent.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 23:1514(D)(4) and R.S. 39:1554(T); Adds R.S. 23:2065(A)(12)-(17) and 2092(A)(3) and R.S. 36:308(E))