

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 282

BY SENATOR JACKSON

SOCIAL SERVICES. Establishes a workforce training initiative to serve public assistance recipients. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact Part III of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:351 through 356, relative to public assistance programs; to establish a workforce training initiative to serve public assistance recipients; to provide for interagency collaboration in administering the program; to provide for an advisory board; to provide for an initial service area followed by a statewide extension of the program; to provide for duties of the executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the state superintendent of education, and the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System with respect to the program; to provide for administrative rulemaking; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Part III of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:351 through 356, is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

PART III. WORKFORCE TRAINING INITIATIVE

§351. Declaration

1 A. It is the policy of this state to encourage self-sufficiency so that
 2 ~~Louisianians~~ **residents of Louisiana** may reduce dependence on public benefits to
 3 meet basic needs and become economically self-reliant, and to provide key supports
 4 to ~~those persons~~ **residents** to help them in achieving their workforce participation
 5 goals.

6 **B. In order to promote inclusive leadership, ensure equal access to**
 7 **professional growth opportunities, and achieve the goals and objectives of the**
 8 **initiative established by Act 271 of the 2018 Regular Session, it is imperative to**
 9 **encourage participation by the public in the design of the program and to**
 10 **implement the program in collaboration with an advisory board comprising a**
 11 **diverse membership.**

12 §352. Definitions

13 As used in this Part, the following ~~terms have the meaning ascribed to them~~
 14 in this Section **definitions apply:**

15 ~~(1) "Participant" means a person who participates in the pilot initiative~~
 16 ~~provided for in this Part.~~

17 ~~(2) "Pilot initiative" means the workforce training and education pilot~~
 18 ~~initiative provided for in this Part.~~

19 ~~(3)~~**(1)** "Public assistance" means any of the following:

20 (a) Cash benefits of the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program
 21 administered by the Department of Children and Family Services.

22 (b) Cash benefits of the Kinship Care Subsidy Program administered by the
 23 Department of Children and Family Services.

24 (c) Nutrition assistance benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
 25 Program administered by the Department of Children and Family Services.

26 (d) Medical assistance pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act
 27 through the program commonly known as Medicaid administered by the Louisiana
 28 Department of Health.

29 (e) Child care assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program

1 administered by the Louisiana Department of Education.

2 ~~(4)(2)~~ "State partners" ~~shall mean~~ **means** the following state entities,
3 collectively:

- 4 (a) The Louisiana Workforce Commission.
5 (b) The Department of Children and Family Services.
6 (c) The Louisiana Department of Health.
7 (d) The Louisiana Department of Education.
8 (e) The Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

9 §353. Workforce training and education ~~pilot~~ initiative; creation; **advisory board**;
10 functions

11 A.(1) Subject to ~~any applicable requirements and limitations of federal law~~
12 ~~and regulation, the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the secretary~~
13 ~~of the Department of Children and Family Services, the secretary of the Louisiana~~
14 ~~Department of Health, the state superintendent of education, and the president of the~~
15 ~~Louisiana Community and Technical College System shall collaborate to design and~~
16 ~~implement~~ **there is hereby established** a workforce training and education ~~pilot~~
17 initiative for public assistance recipients for the purpose of improving employment
18 opportunities and promoting workforce advancement. ~~The secretary of the Louisiana~~
19 ~~Workforce Commission shall lead coordination of the pilot initiative.~~ The heads of
20 the state partners **in collaboration with an advisory board** shall administer the ~~pilot~~
21 initiative in accordance with the provisions of this Part. **The advisory board shall**
22 **consist of the following members:**

23 **(a) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his**
24 **designee.**

25 **(b) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or**
26 **his designee.**

27 **(c) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.**

28 **(d) The state superintendent of education or his designee.**

29 **(e) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College**

1 System or his designee.

2 (f) A representative of Together Louisiana.

3 (g) The president of the National Association for the Advancement of
4 Colored People (NAACP), Louisiana State Conference, or his designee.

5 (h) The president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO or his designee.

6 (i) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
7 or his designee.

8 (j) The state senator for Senate District 34.

9 (k) Two individuals appointed by the state senator for Senate District 34.

10 (2)(a) The state senator for Senate District 34 shall serve as the chair of
11 the advisory board. Upon approval of the chair, the membership of the advisory
12 board may be increased to include a representative of any interested party.

13 (b) The members of the advisory board shall serve without
14 compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may
15 be individually entitled as a member of their respective constituent
16 organization.

17 (c) The state partners shall provide staff support as needed by the
18 advisory board.

19 (d) The advisory board shall meet upon the call of the chair and may
20 meet as frequently as necessary for the timely performance of its duties. The
21 advisory board shall meet in any parish served by the initiative or in East Baton
22 Rouge Parish.

23 ~~(2)(3)(a)~~ The state partners in collaboration with the advisory board shall
24 design the pilot initiative's operations and system of services in such a manner as to
25 facilitate replication allow implementation of the program in all regions of the state.

26 (b) Prior to the design and implementation of the initiative, the advisory
27 board shall conduct meetings for the purpose of receiving public input
28 regarding the program. The first meeting shall be called by the chair no later
29 than August 31, 2022.

1 (c) The advisory board may work with the local human service districts
 2 and authorities for assistance with the design and implementation of the
 3 initiative.

4 B.(1) ~~The state partners shall establish the pilot initiative to~~ program shall
 5 initially operate and serve participants in the following ~~regions~~ parishes:

6 ~~(a) The service area of Local Workforce Development Area No. 40.~~
 7 Concordia.

8 ~~(b) The service area of the Franklin Parish Consortium.~~ East Carroll.

9 ~~(c) The service area of the Ouachita Parish Workforce Investment Board.~~
 10 Madison.

11 (d) Morehouse.

12 (e) Ouachita.

13 (f) Richland.

14 (g) St. Landry.

15 (h) Tensas.

16 ~~(2) If agreed to by the head of each state partner, the partners may expand the~~
 17 The geographic service area of the ~~pilot~~ initiative may be expanded beyond the
 18 regions specified in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. The state partners and
 19 advisory board may work with the local human service districts and authorities
 20 for assistance with expansion of the initiative.

21 C. Participation in the ~~pilot~~ initiative by public assistance recipients shall be
 22 ~~strictly~~ voluntary.

23 D. Work supports and workforce education services provided by the ~~pilot~~
 24 initiative may include, ~~without limitation,~~ any of the following:

25 (1) Job referral services.

26 (2) Job skills development.

27 (3) Job support services.

28 (4) Career planning.

29 (5) Job training.

1 (6) Workforce readiness.

2 (7) Apprenticeship programs.

3 §354. Administration; interagency agreements; participant forms; program
4 promotion

5 A. The state partners shall enter into any memoranda of understanding,
6 cooperative endeavors, or other types of agreements between and among the partners
7 ~~as may be~~ **and with the local human service districts and authorities** necessary
8 to administer the ~~pi~~lot initiative.

9 B.(1) The state partners shall promulgate and issue ~~such~~ **any** forms ~~as are~~
10 necessary to inform prospective participants of the ~~pi~~lot initiative's purpose and
11 functions, and to obtain participants' consent to participate in the ~~pi~~lot initiative.

12 (2) Unless prohibited by federal law or regulation, each state partner shall
13 share with the other **state** partners, on a schedule to be mutually determined by the
14 **state** partners, the names and contact information of persons who have provided
15 consent to participate in the ~~pi~~lot initiative.

16 C. The state partners **and the advisory board** shall collaborate to promote
17 the ~~pi~~lot initiative among ~~their respective~~ **the** clients **of the state partners**, business
18 groups and organizations, community-based groups and organizations, faith-based
19 groups and organizations, and the public generally. **The state partners and**
20 **advisory board may work with the local human service districts and authorities**
21 **to promote the initiative throughout the area of service.**

22 §355. Reporting

23 No later than twelve months after commencement of the ~~pi~~lot initiative, and
24 at least annually thereafter, the state partners, jointly, shall submit a written report
25 providing a summary and evaluation of outcomes of the ~~pi~~lot initiative to **the**
26 **advisory board**, the House and Senate committees on labor and industrial relations,
27 and ~~to~~ the House and Senate committees on health and welfare.

28 §356. Rulemaking

29 The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the secretary of the

1 Department of Children and Family Services, the secretary of the Louisiana
2 Department of Health, the state superintendent of education, and the president of the
3 Louisiana Community and Technical College System shall promulgate all ~~such~~ rules
4 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act ~~as are~~ necessary to implement
5 the provisions of this Part.

6 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
8 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
10 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

DIGEST

SB 282 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Jackson

Present law provides that the executive director of the La. Workforce Commission, the secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services, the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health, the state superintendent of education, and the president of the La. Community and Technical College System, referred to collectively as the "state partners", collaborate to design and implement a workforce training and education initiative for public assistance recipients. Provides that the initiative's purposes are to improve employment opportunities for and promote workforce advancement. Proposed law retains present law and provides for an advisory board to assist the state partners. Provides for the advisory board membership and meetings.

Present law requires the state partners to design the initiative's operations and system of services to facilitate replication of the program in all regions of the state. Proposed law retains present law and requires, prior to the design and implementation of the initiative, the advisory board to conduct meetings for the purpose of receiving public input regarding the program.

Present law provides for the pilot initiative to operate and serve participants in certain regions. Proposed law changes the initial areas served to the following parishes: Concordia, East Carroll, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, St. Landry, and Tensas.

Present law provides that, if agreed to by the head of each state partner, the partners may expand the geographic service area of the pilot initiative beyond the initial regions. Proposed law retains present law but removes the requirement for agreement by each state partner.

Present law provides for the duties of the state partners in implementing and administering the initiative. Proposed law retains present law but makes technical changes.

Present law provides for the state partners to submit annual reports providing a summary and evaluation of the initiative's outcomes to the legislative committees on labor and industrial relations and to the legislative committees on health and welfare. Proposed law retains present law and provides for the annual report to be provided to the advisory board.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 46:351-356)