

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 293

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. Provides primary point of contact for workforce solutions. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 11-A of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 23:1801, relative to workforce development; to provide for  
4 coordination and delivery of workforce solutions; to provide for goals; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Chapter 11-A of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
8 comprised of R.S. 23:1801, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **CHAPTER 11-A. WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**

10 **§1801. Workforce solutions; development; coordination with employers**

11 **A. The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall coordinate and be**  
12 **responsible for the delivery of business workforce solutions to address the state**  
13 **of Louisiana's workforce needs and economic development needs through the**  
14 **various workforce and educational agencies of the state. The secretary of the**  
15 **Louisiana Workforce Commission shall have the authority to make any changes**  
16 **within the commission as necessary to better deliver workforce solutions to meet**  
17 **the needs of the state economy and people of the state. The secretary shall**

1 convene the leaders of the agencies listed in Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section in  
2 order to guide their collaboration across these agencies and within their  
3 agencies to improve the delivery of workforce solutions to businesses and their  
4 workforce needs.

5 B.(1) The Board of Regents, the Louisiana Community and Technical  
6 College System, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of  
7 Education, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and Public Safety,  
8 and the Department of the Children and Family Services shall identify,  
9 recognize, change, create or recommend those initiatives, services, data  
10 collection, research and programs that will provide workforce development in  
11 the state.

12 (2) Recommendations for workforce development may include special  
13 initiatives, or involvement and recommendations from the following entities:

14 (a) The Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center at the  
15 University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

16 (b) Local workforce development boards.

17 (c) Regional economic development organizations.

18 (d) Local chambers of commerce or parish or city economic development  
19 organizations.

20 C. Recommendations and development of workforce solutions shall seek  
21 to accomplish the following goals:

22 (1) Design and collaborate business solutions capabilities to enable  
23 employers in every region of the state to have a single point of contact for  
24 designing solutions to their immediate and long-term workforce needs.

25 (2) Provide a path for college students in Louisiana's four-year  
26 universities and two-year colleges toward paid or unpaid internships in  
27 Louisiana while they are in their Associate degree, non-credit, or technical  
28 credential program or Bachelor's degree program, with the goal that their  
29 internships are embedded in their degree programs, and are in their fields of

1 study or professional fields of interest after graduation. The Board of Regents  
2 shall research and enact policies and procedures that incentivize Louisiana's  
3 public institutions to incorporate work based learning into their degree  
4 program curricula and strengthen the impact of work-based learning on  
5 graduate outcomes.

6 (3) Provide a path for high school participants to earn credit for a paid  
7 internship or apprenticeship, through "work-based learning" by the time they  
8 graduate from high school. As necessary, the Department of Education shall  
9 recommend changes to the state accountability system to increase and reward  
10 work-based learning in high schools throughout Louisiana. These internships  
11 or apprenticeships should be available in a broad range of fields, professional  
12 and technical, and coordinated regionally and locally with chambers of  
13 commerce and economic development organizations.

14 (4) Design a process for accurate workforce shortage forecasting relevant  
15 to the current state needs and forecasted economic development sector goals  
16 and report to the state workforce board, annually.

17 (5) Organizations listed in Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section shall  
18 collaborate on development of an inventory of workforce programs in Louisiana  
19 and metrics on their performance, a plan by February each year to report to the  
20 governor and legislature on a strategy and progress to address and improve  
21 workforce needs. The organizations shall develop common communication and  
22 information for the public and business community to understand the state's  
23 workforce vision and messages that guide improvement of workforce  
24 development efforts in Louisiana.

25 (6) Identify, recommend, and pilot solutions that use nonprofit or private  
26 partners for state workforce solutions where possible.

27 D.(1) The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall determine entities  
28 responsible for convening the state's industrial sectors with the greatest demand  
29 shortages to address solutions to the top three industries' shortages, annually.

- 1                    **(2) The agencies and institutions listed in Paragraphs (B)(1) and (2) of**  
 2                    **this Section shall provide educational attainment data from their constituents**  
 3                    **to ensure achievement for sixty percent of adults to possess a postsecondary**  
 4                    **degree or certificate in a trade by the year 2030, enabling more adults to possess**  
 5                    **postsecondary degree, diplomas, certificates, and credentials of value.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

DIGEST

SB 293 Original

2024 Regular Session

Edmonds

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Workforce Commission coordinate the delivery of business workforce solutions through the various workforce and educational agencies of the state.

Proposed law provides that the Board of Regents, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Department of Economic Development, Department of Education, Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Department of the Children and Family Services identify and recommend initiatives and programs promoting workforce development.

Proposed law provides for recommendations for workforce development which may include special initiatives, or involvement and recommendations from the following entities:

- (a) The Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
- (b) Local workforce development boards.
- (c) Regional economic development organizations.
- (d) Local chambers of commerce or parish or city economic development organizations.

Proposed law provides for recommendations and development of workforce solutions that seek to accomplish the following goals:

- (1) Design and collaborate business solutions capabilities to enable employers in every region of the state to have a single point of contact for designing solutions to their immediate and long-term workforce needs.
- (2) Provide a path for college students in Louisiana's four-year universities and two-year colleges toward paid or unpaid internships in Louisiana while they are in their Associate degree, non-credit, or technical credential program or Bachelor's degree program, with the goal that their internships are embedded in their degree programs, and are in their fields of study or professional fields of interest after graduation. The Board of Regents shall research and enact policies and procedures that incentivize Louisiana's public institutions to incorporate work based learning into their degree program curricula and strengthen the impact of work-based learning on graduate outcomes.
- (3) Provide a path for high school participants to earn credit for a paid internship

or apprenticeship, through "work-based learning" by the time they graduate from high school. As necessary, the Department of Education shall recommend changes to the state accountability system to increase and reward work-based learning in high schools throughout the state. These internships or apprenticeships should be available in a broad range of fields, professional and technical, and coordinated regionally and locally with chambers of commerce and economic development organizations.

- (4) Design a process for accurate workforce shortage forecasting relevant to the current state needs and forecasted economic development sector goals and report to the state workforce board, annually.
- (5) Organizations listed in proposed law shall collaborate on development of an inventory of workforce programs in the state and metrics on their performance, a plan by February each year to report to the governor and legislature on a strategy and progress to address and improve workforce needs. The organizations shall develop common communication and information for the public and business community to understand the state's workforce vision and messages that guide improvement of workforce development efforts in the state.
- (6) Identify, recommend, and pilot solutions that use nonprofit or private partners for state workforce solutions where possible.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall determine entities responsible for convening the state's industrial sectors with the greatest demand shortages to address solutions to the top three industries' shortages, annually.

Proposed law provides that agencies and institutions listed in proposed law provide educational attainment data from their constituents to ensure achievement for sixty percent of adults to possess a postsecondary degree or certificate in a trade by the year 2030, enabling more adults to possess postsecondary degree, diplomas, certificates, and credentials of value that the Board of Regents shall collect from the collaborative partners.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 23:1801)