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DIGEST

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SB 293 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Edmonds

Proposed law provides that the La. 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, La. Community and Technical College System, Dept. of Economic Development, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, and the Dept. of 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 or any other policy institute or center operated by or affiliated with a public university located in the state.
- (b) Local workforce development boards.
- (c) Regional economic development organizations.
- (d) State and local chambers of commerce.

Proposed law provides that Louisiana's Foundational Integrated Research System (LA FIRST) for Transformation develop and publish an ad hoc report requested by the secretary of any state entity listed in present law relative to LA FIRST.

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 will 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 Dept. of Education will 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 will collaborate on development of an inventory of workforce programs in the state and metrics on their performance, and report by February each year to the governor and legislature on a strategy and progress to address and improve workforce needs. The organizations will 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 will determine entities responsible for convening the state's economic sectors with the greatest demand workforce shortages to address solutions to the top three industries' shortages, annually. Proposed law further provides that if the healthcare sector is determined to have workforce shortages, then the recommendation from the commission must include solutions for shortages for medical doctors and doctors of osteopathic medicine as well as nursing and allied health professionals.

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.

Proposed law provides that the La. Workforce Commission will be responsible for directing Louisiana workforce solutions and policy to meet the needs of businesses, the state economy, and economic regions of the state in coordination with certain other state agencies.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 36:301(B) and (C)(2); adds R.S. 17:3138.12(D)(4), 23:1801, and 36:304(A)(10))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to the original bill

- 1. Make technical changes.
- 2. Require the La. Workforce Commission to direct statewide workforce solutions and workforce policy to meet the needs of businesses, the state's economy, and the economic sectors of the state.
- 3. Require the La. Workforce Commission to coordinate with the secretary of La. Economic Development, the superintendent of education, the commissioner of higher education, and the president of the La. Community and Technical College System to meet the needs of businesses and the state economy.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

- 1. Adds participation by any other policy institute or center operated by or affiliated with a public university located in the state.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to the reengrossed bill:

1. Clarify that the secretary of La. Workforce Commission shall have the authority to align or realign workforce systems as deemed necessary.