

HB 196 -- MISSOURI WORKS TRAINING PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Lauer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 23 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Economic Development to establish the Missouri Works Training Program to assist qualified companies with the training of employees in new jobs and the retraining or upgrading of the skills of full-time employees in retained jobs. The program is to be funded through appropriations to the Missouri Works Job Development Fund which was formerly the Missouri Job Development Fund, the Missouri Works Community College New Jobs Training Fund which was formerly the Missouri Community College Job Training Program Fund, and the Missouri Works Community College Job Retention Training Fund which was formerly the Missouri Community College Job Retention Training Program Fund. The department must, to the maximum extent practicable, prioritize funding to assist qualified companies in targeted industries. The bill specifies the requirements for a qualified company to receive benefits under the program, how the benefits will be calculated, and the penalties for failure to meet any requirements under the program. These provisions will expire July 1, 2019, unless reauthorized by the General Assembly.

The provisions regarding the Missouri Job Training Joint Legislative Oversight Committee are repealed and the Missouri Works Job Training Joint Legislative Oversight Committee is established consisting of three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker and three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem. An annual report must be submitted by October 1 to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President Pro Tem of the Senate regarding all assistance provided to industries under these provisions during the preceding fiscal year.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will give the Department of Economic Development more options in creating job training benefits by allowing the department to use existing job training funds to targeted areas that require specialized training.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lauer; Missouri Chamber of Commerce; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Community College Association; Steve Kurtz, Mineral Area College; Gary Sage, Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City Missouri; Jessica Craig, Metropolitan Community College; Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; Missouri Municipal League; and Missouri Economic Development Council.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.