

HB 1421 -- Community College Job Retention Training Programs

Sponsor: Dempsey

This bill creates the authority for community college districts to enter project agreements, with the approval of the Department of Economic Development after consultation with the Office of Administration, with employers who have retained jobs that represent a substantial investment in technology or that were at risk of relocation out of state. The bill specifies the requirements for qualifying employers. Community colleges will provide job training, skills assessments, and training facilities, among other services, and may subcontract with other public or private colleges and with governmental agencies. The agreements may provide that program costs would be met by receipt of retained jobs credits from withholding, based on 2.5% of the gross wages paid to employees in the first 100 retained jobs and 1.5% for any additional retained jobs. The employer is responsible for meeting any shortfall in withholdings. Community college districts may issue industrial retained job training certificates to provide funds for the payment of costs of the programs, with a statewide cap of \$25 million. The bill also sets timetables for approval of projects; establishes special funds; and regulates the disbursement of moneys to those funds, certification of withholdings, and borrowing for and issuance of certificates by community college districts.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date and no certificates can be sold after July 1, 2014.