



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Kailey M. Henry

Am. H.B. 429

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Rules and Reference)

Reps. Antani and Reineke, Duffey, Hackett, Young, Grossman, Baker, Barnes

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires an automotive technician or a motor vehicle technician to be an eligible employee under the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program if the technician satisfies other Program requirements.
- Makes an employer of an automotive technician or a motor vehicle technician an eligible employer under the Program if other requirements for participation are satisfied.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Eligibility under the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program

The bill requires that an employee who is an automotive technician or a motor vehicle technician be an eligible employee under the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program if the employee otherwise satisfies the Program's requirements. Additionally, under the bill, an employer of an automotive technician or a motor vehicle technician, including an employer that is a motor vehicle retail service store or a licensed motor vehicle dealer, is an eligible employer if the employer otherwise satisfies the requirements for Program participation. Under the bill, an "automotive technician" is an individual who repairs, services, or performs maintenance on motor vehicles or other types of vehicles, including utility vehicles.¹

¹ Section 1 (amending Sec. 257.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly).

Background

The Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program provides financial assistance to an employer to offset a portion of the training costs to upgrade the skills of the employer's incumbent employees. The Development Services Agency (DSA), in partnership with OhioMeansJobs.com (the state's electronic system for labor exchange and job placement activity), provides a reimbursement to the employer for specific training costs permitted under the Program. An employer is eligible to receive up to \$100,000 in reimbursements per fiscal year through the Program. This includes an amount of up to 50% of the cost of an eligible training and up to \$4,000 per employee in the fiscal year for a single or multiple trainings. The employer is reimbursed by DSA after the employer pays for the full cost of the training and submits an invoice to DSA after the employee has successfully completed the training.

To receive a voucher under the Program, the employer and the employee must meet certain requirements. An eligible employer is one that operates as a for-profit entity in a state-designated target industry and has a facility located in Ohio that has been in continuous operation for the 12 months immediately before applying. Currently, the automotive industry is a target industry except with respect to dealerships or repair shops (those industries dedicated to the selling and maintenance of automobiles following delivery to the end-user). An eligible employee must be directly employed by the employer in an approved business function, earn an hourly wage of at least 150% of the federal minimum wage (currently \$10.88) plus benefits, work at least 25 hours per week, and satisfy age and residency requirements.²

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE |
|---|----------|
| Introduced | 01-13-16 |
| Reported, H. Economic & Workforce Development | 02-24-16 |
| Reported, H. Rules & Reference | 04-26-16 |

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² Development Services Agency, *Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program*, http://development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_wtvp.htm (accessed April 26, 2016).

