

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Gunther and others

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Analyst: Linda A. Holmes, 651-296-5059

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Overview

The job skills partnership board oversees both the job skills partnership program and the pathways program. Under both of these programs, funding is provided to educational institutions to cooperate with specific employers to provide needed training for workers. The difference between the programs is chiefly that the pathways program was designed as a welfare-to-work program, and the job skills partnership program can serve a broader group of workers. This bill makes clarifying changes to the language in the statutes authorizing these programs. It also changes one reference in the statutes governing the HIRE education loan program, which the job skills partnership board also operates.

Section

- 1 **Job skills partnership program.** Current language refers to serving "displaced workers." This section removes the word "displaced" so that the reference is simply to "workers."
- 2 **Pathways program.** Specifies that the pathways program, which is operated by the job skills partnership board, is to assist individuals who are at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Existing language states that it is to assist in the "transition of persons from welfare to work." Also removes language stating that aided programs must serve public assistance recipients transitioning from welfare to work, and provides that support services may be provided under the pathways program. Makes clarifying changes.
- 3 **Loan uses.** Current language requires employers who receive funding through the HIRE education loan program to use it to obtain the most "cost-effective" training. This section changes this statement to refer to the most "effective" training.