

Regular Session, 2008

SENATE BILL NO. 420

BY SENATORS CHAISSON, BROOME AND NEVERS AND REPRESENTATIVES
TUCKER AND TRAHAN

FUNDS/FUNDING. Creates and establishes the Workforce Education Fund. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:1874, relative to state funds; to establish the Workforce Education Fund
3 as a special find in the state treasury; to provide for the dedication, deposit, use, and
4 investment on monies in the fund; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:1874 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§1874. Workforce Education Fund**

9 **A. It is an important responsibility of the state to promote workforce**
10 **development and provide significant opportunity for business and labor to assist**
11 **in the development and delivery of workforce education and workforce training**
12 **policy, programs, and performance standards. Carrying out this responsibility**
13 **requires the development of strategies that will upgrade the skills of our existing**
14 **workforce and prepare new workers with the skills for a constantly changing**
15 **economy. Institutions of higher education under the management and**
16 **supervision of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges,**
17 **hereinafter referred to as the "board", play a vital role in providing an**

1 education that will augment workforce development and the legislature hereby
2 declares its intent to provide a mechanism to provide supplemental funding for
3 workforce education.

4 B.(1) There is hereby created in the state treasury, as a special fund, the
5 Workforce Education Fund, hereinafter referred to as the "fund". Monies in
6 the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the general fund.
7 Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be credited to the
8 fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the
9 fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

10 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, the sum of ten million dollars
11 shall be deposited each year in the fund. Monies in the fund shall be
12 appropriated, administered, and used solely as provided in Subsection C of this
13 Section.

14 C.(1) Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the board and used in
15 accordance with a strategic plan to be developed as provided in this Subsection,
16 exclusively for workforce education which shall assist an individual in their
17 ability to function as an adequate employee in a workplace, including education
18 directed at refining or developing literacy or other basic education skills;
19 programs directed at lifelong learning or continuing education; job readiness
20 training; vocational, technical, or occupation education; worker or workplace
21 education; articulated career path programs and constituent courses of such
22 programs that lead to initial or continuing licensure, certification, or associate
23 degree level accreditation; and other education programs whose purpose is to
24 assist citizens to improve their employment opportunities.

25 (2) The board is hereby authorized to receive the appropriations for the
26 exclusive purpose of workforce education to be provided by the institutions
27 under its management and control in accordance with the provisions of this
28 Section.

1 **(3) The secretary of the Department of Labor, the secretary of the**
2 **Department of Economic Development, and the chief executive officer of the**
3 **board, collectively, shall approve a strategic plan that provides guidance to the**
4 **board regarding the expenditure of funds appropriated from the fund. The**
5 **strategic plan shall be based on the following:**

6 **(i) Labor market information.**

7 **(ii) Occupational forecast data.**

8 **(iii) Business and industry input.**

9 **(iv) Workforce education program costs.**

10 **(v) The current and anticipated workforce demands of business and**
11 **industry on a regional basis.**

12 **(vi) The potential economic impact of addressing such workforce**
13 **demands.**

14 **(vii) Available resources such as facilities, curricula, and instructors.**

15 **(viii) Regional needs and priorities, including geographic regions and**
16 **regional economies.**

17 **(ix) The anticipated time frame for establishing or expanding educational**
18 **or training programs to address such workforce demands.**

19 **(x) The potential participants available to enter such educational or**
20 **training programs.**

21 **(xi) Related workforce considerations.**

22 **(4) The secretary of the Department of Labor, the secretary of the**
23 **Department of Economic Development, and the chief executive officer of the**
24 **board, collectively, shall monitor whether the funds are being used in**
25 **accordance with the strategic plan and the effectiveness of the board's**
26 **workforce development efforts and report these findings to the Board of**
27 **Regents on an annual basis.**

28 **D. The fund is in addition to, and separate from, any monies allocated**
29 **to the institutions under the management and control of the board by the Board**

1 **of Regents pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana**
 2 **or any other provision of law. The availability of the fund shall not in any way**
 3 **substitute, limit or otherwise affect the allocation of any funds otherwise**
 4 **available to those institutions under state or federal laws.**

5 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 6 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed
 8 by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 9 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Martha S. Hess.

DIGEST

Proposed law expresses the responsibility of the state to promote workforce development and to provide a significant opportunity for business and labor to assist in the development and delivery of workforce education and workforce training policy, programs, and performance standards.

Proposed law states the legislature's intent to provide a mechanism to provide supplemental funding for workforce education.

Proposed law creates in the state treasury, as a special fund, the Workforce Education Fund, hereinafter referred to as the "fund". Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

Proposed law provides that subject to legislative appropriation, the sum of \$10 million shall be deposited each year in the fund.

Proposed law provides that monies in the fund shall be appropriated, administered, and used in accordance with a strategic plan to be developed exclusively for workforce education.

Proposed law authorizes the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, hereinafter referred to as the "board", to receive the appropriations for the exclusive purpose of workforce education to be provided by the institutions under its management and control.

Proposed law provides that the secretary of the Department of Labor, the secretary of the Department of Economic Development, and the chief executive officer of the board, collectively, shall approve a strategic plan that provides guidance to the board regarding the expenditure of funds appropriated from the fund. Proposed law provides the factors on which the strategic plan is to be based.

Proposed law requires the secretary of the Department of Labor, the secretary of the Department of Economic Development, and the chief executive officer of the board, collectively, to monitor whether the funds are being used in accordance with the strategic

plan and the effectiveness of the board's workforce development efforts and report these findings to the Board of Regents on an annual basis.

Proposed law provides that the fund is in addition to, and separate from, any monies allocated to the institutions under the management and control of the board by the Board of Regents pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana or any other provision of law.

Proposed law provides that the availability of the fund shall not in any way substitute, limit or otherwise affect the allocation of any funds otherwise available to those institutions under state or federal laws.

(Adds R.S. 17:1874)