A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE SKILLED WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

Under current law, the department of labor and employment administers the skilled worker, outreach, recruitment, and key training (WORK) grant program, which provides matching grants to eligible public or private entities or organizations that provide skilled worker training programs in partnership with industry. The general assembly is

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment. Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute. Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.
directed to appropriate $10 million for the WORK grant program for the
2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 fiscal years.

The bill:

! Extends the program for 3 fiscal years;
! Specifies deadlines for the department to award and issue
  matching grants to recipients;
! Requires, instead of permits, the department to develop an
  expedited application process for award recipients seeking
  to extend or increase an existing grant award; and
! Requires the general assembly to appropriate an additional
  $10 million for the WORK grant program for the 2018-19,
  2019-20, and 2020-21 fiscal years and specifies how the
  money available for matching grants must be allocated.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-83-304, amend
(1)(b)(I), (1)(d) introductory portion, and (2) as follows:

8-83-304. Skilled worker outreach, recruitment, and key
training grant program - creation - award criteria. (1) (b) (I) For the
2015-16 through 2018-19 fiscal years, The department shall administer
the grant program by accepting and processing matching grant
applications submitted pursuant to this section, and the grant review
committee shall review and make recommendations for awarding
matching grants. The department shall develop application guidelines,
and establish deadlines for the grant program, and may develop an
expedited application process in accordance with subsection (1)(d) of this
section.

(d) Notwithstanding the requirements of the "Procurement Code",
articles 101 to 112 of title 24, the department may SHALL use an expedited
procedure for accepting and reviewing an application from an eligible
applicant that received matching grant awards in the 2015-16 or 2016-17
A PRIOR fiscal year and is applying for an additional matching grant or to
extend a matching grant award under an existing agreement if:

(2) No later than January 1, 2016, and no later than each January thereafter through January 1, 2018, the department shall start accepting grant applications for matching grants to be awarded by January 1 of each year; shall award grants pursuant to section 8-83-305 within ninety days, but no later than the April 1, following the application submittal deadline; and shall issue grant awards to recipients within forty-five days after notifying the award recipients of the grant award.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-83-305, amend (2)(c) as follows:

8-83-305. Skilled worker outreach, recruitment, and key training grant review committee - creation - membership - duties - grant award recommendations. (2) (c) (I) After reviewing the grant applications and subject to subsection (2)(c)(II) of this section, the grant review committee shall make recommendations about which eligible applicants should be awarded matching grants and the amounts of the matching grants. which Recommendations shall be based on the committee's determination as to which eligible applicants best satisfy the grant criteria pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (2) subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) of this section. The grant review committee shall submit its recommendations to the executive directors of the departments of labor and employment and higher education and the director of the office. After considering the grant review committee's recommendations and subject to subsection (2)(c)(II) of this section, the executive directors and the director shall jointly determine to whom and in what amounts to award matching grants. Grants shall be
awarded WITHIN NINETY DAYS, BUT no later than the April 1, following
the application submittal deadline, AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE
THE GRANT AWARDS WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER NOTIFYING THE
AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE GRANT AWARDS.

GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL ENSURE THAT IT RECOMMENDS
MATCHING GRANT AMOUNTS, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE SHALL ENSURE THAT THEY AWARD MATCHING
GRANTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE MONEY
IN THE WORK FUND SPECIFIED IN SECTION 8-83-307 (3)(b).

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-83-306, amend (2)
introductory portion; and add (3) as follows:

8-83-306. Reports. (2) By May 1, 2017, and by each May 1
thereafter through May 1, 2020 THE MAY 1 FOLLOWING THE LAST FISCAL
YEAR IN WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATES MONEY TO THE
FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-83-307 (3), the grant review committee
shall submit an annual report to the governor, the senate committee on
business, labor, and technology or its successor committee, and the house
of representatives committee on business affairs and labor or its successor
committee. The grant review committee shall include in the report at least
the following information:

(3) SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I) DOES NOT APPLY TO THE
REPORTING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-83-307, amend (3)
as follows:

8-83-307. Skilled worker outreach, recruitment, and key
training grant program fund - creation. (3) (a) For the 2015-16,
2016-17, and 2017-18 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 fiscal years, the general assembly shall appropriate a total of ten million dollars to the fund, of which not more than three million four hundred thousand dollars may be expended in any given fiscal year.

(b) The money in the fund that is available for matching grants must be allocated to eligible applicants approved for a matching grant award pursuant to section 8-83-305 (2)(c) as follows:

(I) Two-thirds to eligible applicants that were awarded matching grants in a prior fiscal year; and

(II) One-third to eligible applicants that have not received a matching grant previously.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.