
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill amends H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly to specify that automotive or motor vehicle repair technicians qualify for training expense reimbursement under the existing Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program if the employees otherwise satisfy the requirements of the program. The bill also specifies that entities that employ automotive technicians are eligible for training cost reimbursement so long as they meet the guidelines for participating in the program. Finally, the bill includes an emergency clause so that the legislation immediately expands workforce opportunities in the affected field.

The program, overseen by the Development Services Agency (DSA), reimburses 50% of an employer's costs for training existing workers, up to \$4,000 per employee, with an employer's total reimbursements capped at \$100,000 per calendar year. Eligible employees must be Ohio residents that earn at least 150% of federal minimum wage (currently \$10.88 per hour) and work in one of several specified fields. Under current law, eligible fields include advanced manufacturing, aerospace and aviation, automotive manufacturing, biohealth manufacturing, financial services, food processing, information and technology services, polymer and chemical manufacturing, back office administrative services, logistics, and research and development services.

Reimbursements are paid from the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Job Training Fund (Fund 5HR0) under appropriation item 195662, Incumbent Workforce Training Vouchers. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly appropriated \$7.5 million in both FY 2016 and FY 2017 for the program. By including automotive technicians and their employers in the program, reimbursements could be higher than they otherwise would be. However, total reimbursements would be limited to the amounts appropriated. As of February 9, 2016, FY 2016 reimbursements have totaled approximately \$214,000. Fund 5HR0 receives transfers of casino licensing fee revenue from the Economic Development Programs Fund (Fund 5JC0) used by the Department of Higher Education.