

1 H.833

2 Introduced by Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Marcotte of Coventry,
3 Frenier of Chelsea, Hill of Wolcott, Keenan of St. Albans City,
4 Kimbell of Woodstock, McCoy of Poultney, Myers of Essex,
5 O'Sullivan of Burlington, Stuart of Brattleboro, and Sullivan of
6 Dorset

7 Referred to Committee on

8 Date:

9 Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development; workforce
10 development

11 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make funding
12 available for small businesses through the Vermont Training Program.

13 An act relating to providing workforce training funds for small businesses

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 532 is added to read:

16 § 532. VERMONT SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

17 (a) Creation; purpose. There is created within the Agency of Commerce
18 and Community Development the Vermont Small Business Training Program,
19 the purpose of which is to make workforce training grants available to small
20 businesses on a rolling basis.

1 (b) Funding. Of the amounts annually appropriated to the Vermont
2 Training Program created in section 531 of this title, the Secretary of
3 Commerce and Community Development shall reserve \$250,000.00 for the
4 Vermont Small Business Training Program created in subsection (a) of this
5 section.

6 (c) Eligibility. The Secretary shall have the authority to award one-to-one
7 matching grants of not more than \$15,000.00 if:

8 (1) a business has not more than 50 employees and not more than
9 \$20 million in annual gross revenue at the time of application; and

10 (2) the Secretary finds that the grant:

11 (A) allows the business to address a persistent hiring challenge or
12 skills gap for an existing or newly created full-time equivalent position; or

13 (B) provides training that allows a part-time employee to become
14 full time.

15 (d) Application.

16 (1) The Secretary shall adopt forms, procedures, and approval criteria
17 for evaluating proposals for training grants on a rolling basis.

18 (2) An applicant shall submit with its application:

19 (A) a letter of intent from the employer and employees addressing the
20 type and purpose of the training proposal;

21 (B) a letter of support from the Department of Labor; and

1 (C) a letter of support from the local workforce investment board,
2 after consideration and endorsement of the proposal.

3 (e) Evaluation. The Secretary shall adopt measures and benchmarks to
4 evaluate the success of a proposal, including the rate of completion for training
5 and the economic benefit to the employer and employees.

6 Sec. 2. REPEAL

7 10 V.S.A. § 532 (Small Business Training Program) is repealed.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

9 (a) This section and Sec. 1 (creation of Vermont Small Business Training
10 Program) shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

11 (b) Sec. 2 (repeal of Vermont Small Business Training Program) shall take
12 effect on July 1, 2023.