

SENATE BILL 367

Unofficial Copy
01

2001 Regular Session
(11r1198)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Budget and Taxation and Finance/Appropriations --

Introduced by **Senators Hoffman, Madden, Currie, Hogan, Kasemeyer,
Lawlah, McFadden, Middleton, Munson, Neall, Ruben, Stoltzfus, and
Van Hollen**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion
4 (STEP) Pilot Program; expressing the intent of the General Assembly regarding
5 the purpose of the STEP Program; requiring the Governor's Workforce
6 Investment Board, in consultation with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and
7 Regulation, to establish and administer the STEP Program; requiring the STEP
8 Program to provide certain grants on a competitive basis to a certain number of
9 local workforce investment boards; providing for the funding of the STEP
10 Program; specifying the STEP Program application process and application
11 contents; requiring the Board to evaluate certain applications, to consider
12 factors, and to recommend to the Department the distribution of certain grants;
13 requiring the Board to adopt certain performance evaluation standards;
14 authorizing the Board to adopt certain regulations and guidelines; requiring a
15 local workforce investment board that receives a STEP Program grant to

1 develop certain processes and programs, provide for the creation of certain
2 accounts, ensure that eligible individuals make certain applications prior to use
3 of certain funds, coordinate with certain programs that provide wraparound
4 services, assist eligible individuals in making certain applications prior to use of
5 certain funds, collect and report certain data, and comply with certain
6 performance evaluation requirements; requiring a local workforce investment
7 board that receives a STEP Program grant to develop certain employer-based
8 training programs that meet certain requirements; requiring the Department to
9 distribute STEP Program grants consistent with certain recommendations, to
10 establish certain financial and data collection procedures, and to provide certain
11 technical assistance; requiring the Board to submit a certain annual report by a
12 certain date; expressing the intent of the General Assembly if certain funds are
13 used; expressing the intent of the General Assembly that certain funds be
14 directed primarily to certain individuals; defining certain terms; providing for
15 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the creation of the
16 Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot Program.

17 BY adding to

18 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
19 Section 18-401 through 18-408, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle
20 4. Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot
21 Program"
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

24 Preamble

25 WHEREAS, Fifteen percent of Maryland's children live in poverty and even
26 more live in near poverty; and

27 WHEREAS, Nationally almost two-thirds of children in poverty have working
28 parents; and

29 WHEREAS, During the past 20 years, low-income families have seen an erosion
30 in their standard of living, while at the same time the wealthiest families have
31 experienced a dramatic increase in real income and wealth; and

32 WHEREAS, While welfare reform efforts have helped many former welfare
33 recipients move into the labor force, many of these individuals have found work in
34 entry-level jobs with low wages and without employer provided health care or other
35 benefits; and

36 WHEREAS, The long-term success of welfare reform and workforce
37 development efforts depends on assisting low-income working parents sustain living
38 wage employment and access career ladders for employment promotion; and

39 WHEREAS, Helping low-income working parents access career ladders for
40 employment promotion to better jobs with higher wages and employer provided

1 benefits can result in long-term improvements in the economic well-being of
2 low-income families thereby reducing the likelihood of future public assistance needs;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The increased job related skills of parents can also serve to
5 encourage their children to perform better in school, thereby helping to break the
6 cycle of poverty; and

7 WHEREAS, Numerous employers in Maryland are currently suffering
8 shortages of skilled workers which inhibits the economic growth of the State and the
9 increased skills-based training of individuals will contribute to both economic
10 development and prosperity in the State; now, therefore,

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

14 **SUBTITLE 4. SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION**
15 **(STEP) PILOT PROGRAM.**

16 18-401.

17 IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE SKILLS-BASED
18 TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION (STEP) PILOT PROGRAM:

19 (1) ENABLE LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN
20 TO PURSUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTED AT ATTAINMENT OF IDENTIFIED
21 SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS;

22 (2) ASSIST LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN IN
23 MOVING TOWARD LONG-TERM SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITH SKILLS-BASED TRAINING
24 THAT WILL:

25 (I) LEAD TO JOBS WITH FAMILY SUSTAINING WAGES INCLUDING
26 HEALTH CARE AND OTHER BENEFITS;

27 (II) PROVIDE ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL CAREER LADDERS FOR
28 CONTINUED JOB ADVANCEMENT; AND

29 (III) ELIMINATE FUTURE NEEDS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;

30 (3) CREATE SKILLED EMPLOYEES THAT ARE QUALIFIED FOR
31 EMPLOYMENT IN AN AREA OF STATE OR LOCAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGE; AND

32 (4) COORDINATE WITH AND NOT DUPLICATE EXISTING STATE
33 PROGRAMS.

1 18-402.

2 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
3 INDICATED.

4 (B) "BOARD" MEANS THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
5 ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND
6 EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

7 (C) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND
8 REGULATION.

9 (D) "ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

10 (1) IS THE CUSTODIAL PARENT, NONCUSTODIAL PARENT, OR LEGAL
11 GUARDIAN OF ONE OR MORE DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND IS RESPONSIBLE IN
12 WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE DEPENDENT CHILDREN;

13 (2) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

14 (3) LIVES IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH AN INCOME THAT IS NOT MORE THAN
15 200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; AND

16 (4) ~~(I)~~ I. WORKS AT LEAST 20 HOURS PER WEEK IN:

17 ~~(A)~~ A. PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT;

18 ~~(B)~~ B. FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM WORK ACTIVITY; OR

19 ~~(C)~~ C. STATE-SPONSORED OR RELATED WORK ACTIVITY; AND

20 ~~(5) 2.~~ HAS WORKED IN ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES LISTED IN ~~ITEM (4) OF THIS~~
21 ~~SUBSECTION~~ ITEM (I)1 OF THIS ITEM FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS; OR

22 ~~(6)~~ (II) HAS WORKED AT LEAST 20 HOURS PER WEEK IN ONE OF THE
23 ACTIVITIES LISTED IN ~~ITEM (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION~~ ITEM (I)1 OF THIS ITEM FOR AT
24 LEAST 6 MONTHS IN THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS.

25 (E) (1) "EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING" MEANS SKILLS-BASED TRAINING
26 THAT:

27 (I) IS APPROVED BY A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD;

28 (II) IS PROVIDED TO AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL IN COORDINATION
29 WITH THE INDIVIDUAL'S EMPLOYER; AND

30 (III) MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 18-406 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

31 (2) "EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING" MAY INCLUDE APPROVED IN-HOUSE
32 EMPLOYER TRAINING AND EMPLOYER TRAINING PROGRAMS DEVELOPED IN

1 COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OR OTHER
2 TRAINING PROVIDERS.

3 (F) "INDIVIDUAL STEP ACCOUNT" MEANS AN ACCOUNT HELD ON BEHALF OF
4 AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL BY A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT MAY
5 BE USED TO PAY FOR SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES AND
6 THAT:

7 (1) MAY CONSIST OF MONEYS CONTRIBUTED BY AN ELIGIBLE
8 INDIVIDUAL OR EMPLOYER; AND

9 (2) SHALL CONSIST OF MONEYS FROM THE STEP PROGRAM.

10 (G) "LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD" MEANS A BOARD
11 ESTABLISHED TO ADMINISTER SERVICES IN A WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA
12 ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
13 ARTICLE.

14 (H) "SKILLS-BASED TRAINING" MEANS TRAINING APPROVED BY A LOCAL
15 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT RESULTS IN THE ISSUANCE OF A
16 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL DEGREE, THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF
17 PROFICIENCY IN A SPECIFIC WORK-RELATED SKILL, OR THE ATTAINMENT OF AN
18 IDENTIFIABLE SKILL THAT IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO FUTURE JOB ADVANCEMENT AND
19 IMPROVEMENT IN AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL'S EARNING POTENTIAL.

20 (I) "SPATIAL MISMATCH" MEANS A PATTERN IN WHICH EMPLOYERS IN NEED
21 OF WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES SEEKING JOBS ARE IN DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS
22 WITHIN THE SAME JOB MARKET, CREATING A WORKER SHORTAGE IN ONE
23 JURISDICTION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION.

24 ~~(H)~~ (J) "STEP PROGRAM" MEANS THE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR
25 EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION PILOT PROGRAM CREATED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

26 ~~(H)~~ (K) "WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA" MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA
27 DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR AS A SERVICE DELIVERY AREA UNDER TITLE 11,
28 SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

29 ~~(K)~~ (L) (1) "WRAPAROUND SERVICES" MEANS SERVICES THAT ARE
30 NECESSARY TO ENABLE AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL TO PARTICIPATE IN AN APPROVED
31 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM.

32 (2) "WRAPAROUND SERVICES" INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH
33 CARE, CHILD CARE, MEALS, TEMPORARY HOUSING, AND OTHER REASONABLE
34 EXPENSES REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE APPROVED SKILLS-BASED
35 TRAINING PROGRAM.

1 18-403.

2 (A) THERE IS A STEP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND
 3 WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPENDENT
 4 CHILDREN WHO HAVE A AND PROVEN WORK HISTORY HISTORIES.

5 ~~(A)~~ (B) THE BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL
 6 ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER THE STEP PROGRAM.

7 ~~(B)~~ (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE STEP PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO
 8 LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS TO FUND SKILLS-BASED TRAINING,
 9 EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING, AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE
 10 INDIVIDUALS.

11 ~~(C)~~ (D) THE STEP PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE GRANTS ON A COMPETITIVE
 12 BASIS TO AT LEAST THREE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS CONSISTENT
 13 WITH ~~§ 11-704~~ § 18-404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

14 ~~(D)~~ (E) THE STEP PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
 15 BUDGET WITH:

16 (1) MONEY INCLUDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE BUDGET OF THE
 17 DEPARTMENT;

18 (2) MONEY FROM ANY PRIVATE SOURCE; AND

19 (3) ANY AVAILABLE MONEY FROM A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL
 20 PROGRAM, INCLUDING MONEY RECEIVED BY THE STATE FROM THE FEDERAL
 21 TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) BLOCK GRANT AND THE
 22 FEDERAL JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT.

23 18-404.

24 (A) TO APPLY FOR A GRANT UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM, A LOCAL
 25 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OR A GROUP OF TWO OR MORE LOCAL
 26 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD.

27 (B) THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
 28 BOARD OR A GROUP OF TWO OR MORE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
 29 SHALL:

30 (1) IDENTIFY:

31 (I) THE WORK-RELATED SKILLS AND OCCUPATIONS THAT ARE IN
 32 SHORT SUPPLY IN THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION SERVED BY THE LOCAL WORKFORCE
 33 INVESTMENT BOARD; AND

34 (II) THE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES
 35 THAT THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD INTENDS TO FUND THROUGH
 36 THE STEP PROGRAM; AND

1 (2) PROVIDE OTHER INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE BOARD.

2 (C) THE BOARD SHALL:

3 (1) EVALUATE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY LOCAL WORKFORCE
4 INVESTMENT BOARDS AND RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT THE DISTRIBUTION
5 OF GRANTS TO LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS UNDER THE STEP
6 PROGRAM;

7 (2) INCLUDE IN THE EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATIONS,
8 CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

9 (I) THE EXISTENCE OF A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS IN
10 THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT ARE
11 RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE
12 PRIOR 12 MONTHS;

13 (II) THE LEVEL OF EXISTING LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
14 BOARD TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS; ~~AND~~

15 (III) THE ABILITY OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
16 TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 18-405 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

17 (IV) WHERE APPLICABLE, THE EXTENT TO WHICH TWO OR MORE
18 LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME ANY
19 SPATIAL MISMATCH OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS THAT MAY EXIST BETWEEN
20 EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WITHIN A LOCAL OR REGIONAL JOB MARKET; AND

21 (3) ADOPT OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION STANDARDS THAT
22 MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STEP PROGRAM AND INCLUDE:

23 (I) AN EVALUATION OF THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TYPE OF JOB AND
24 INCREASES IN WAGES AND BENEFITS OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF
25 COMPLETION OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING; AND

26 (II) THE MONITORING OF THE JOB ADVANCEMENT, WAGES, AND
27 BENEFIT LEVELS OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS COMPLETED SKILLS-BASED
28 TRAINING FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AFTER THE TRAINING IS COMPLETED.

29 (D) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT
30 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

31 18-405.

32 (A) AFTER RECEIVING THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD,
33 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE AND ADMINISTER THE STEP PROGRAM GRANT
34 FUNDS TO THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS IN A MANNER
35 CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

36 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

1 (1) ESTABLISH FINANCIAL PROCEDURES AND REPORTING MECHANISMS
2 TO ENSURE THAT STEP PROGRAM FUNDS ARE BEING APPROPRIATELY USED FOR THE
3 PURPOSES OF THE STEP PROGRAM;

4 (2) ESTABLISH DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES THAT PROVIDE FOR
5 THE COLLECTION, TRACKING, AND REPORTING TO THE BOARD OF STEP PROGRAM
6 DATA NEEDED BY THE BOARD TO COMPLETE THE REPORTING AND EVALUATION
7 REQUIREMENTS OF THE STEP PROGRAM; AND

8 (3) ASSIST IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL
9 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

10 18-406.

11 (A) A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT RECEIVES A GRANT
12 UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM SHALL:

13 (1) DEVELOP AN ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE
14 INDIVIDUALS WITH EXISTING JOB SKILLS AT A LEVEL SUFFICIENT TO BENEFIT
15 FROM SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS;

16 (2) ENSURE THAT AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL APPLIES FOR ALL
17 AVAILABLE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, OR PROGRAMS
18 PRIOR TO USE OF STEP PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES;

19 (3) COORDINATE WITH ALL APPLICABLE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
20 PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND
21 ASSIST ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN APPLYING FOR THESE PROGRAMS PRIOR TO USE
22 OF FUNDS FROM THE STEP PROGRAM FOR THESE PURPOSES;

23 (4) PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF INDIVIDUAL STEP ACCOUNTS HELD
24 BY THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD ON BEHALF OF AN ELIGIBLE
25 INDIVIDUAL THAT MAY BE USED BY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO PAY FOR
26 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES;

27 (5) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTREACH PROGRAM TO ENSURE
28 THAT ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND EMPLOYERS OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS ARE
29 AWARE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM THAT MAY
30 INCLUDE:

31 (I) A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE HOTLINE;

32 (II) DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS;

33 (III) MAILINGS AND TELEPHONE CALLS TO FOOD STAMP
34 RECIPIENTS, PARENTS OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
35 PROGRAM, INDIVIDUALS THAT RECEIVE FEDERAL AND STATE EARNED INCOME TAX
36 CREDITS, AND FORMER RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;

1 (IV) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION OF PUBLIC ENTITIES AND
2 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS;

3 (V) COORDINATION OF OUTREACH AND MARKETING EFFORTS
4 AMONG LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS THAT RECEIVE STEP PROGRAM
5 GRANTS; AND

6 (VI) AN INTERNET WEBSITE WITH INTERNET LINKS BETWEEN THE
7 WEBSITES OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE BOARD, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
8 RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE
9 MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
10 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS;

11 (6) ASSIST ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE COMPLETED
12 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT WITH INCREASED WAGES
13 AND BENEFITS;

14 (7) COLLECT DATA AND REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT EACH YEAR ON:

15 (I) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO SUCCESSFULLY
16 COMPLETE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING;

17 (II) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO OBTAIN
18 ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT ON COMPLETION OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND ANY
19 CHANGE IN WAGES AND BENEFITS RECEIVED; ~~AND~~

20 (III) THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS
21 PARTICIPATING IN EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS; AND

22 (IV) THE NUMBER OF LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
23 WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS SPATIAL MISMATCH AND THE NUMBER OF
24 EMPLOYERS AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED; AND

25 (8) COMPLY WITH THE STEP PROGRAM PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
26 REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER § 18-404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

27 (B) (1) IN ADDITION TO SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND
28 SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS UNDER SUBSECTION (A)
29 OF THIS SECTION, A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT RECEIVES A
30 STEP PROGRAM GRANT SHALL WORK IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS TO
31 IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP APPROVED EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS
32 CONSISTENT WITH PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

33 (2) APPROVED EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS:

34 (I) SHALL BE FUNDED WITH A MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION BY THE
35 EMPLOYER OF AT LEAST 50% IN MATCHING FUNDS;

1 (II) MAY BE PERMITTED TO RANGE FROM SHORT-TERM TRAINING
2 IN SPECIFIC SKILLS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION CLASSES OVER A LONGER
3 PERIOD OF TIME;

4 (III) MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO TRAINING THAT WILL RESULT IN THE
5 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL REMAINING IN OR MOVING TO A JOB WITH AN EMPLOYER
6 THAT IS AT A MINIMUM WAGE SALARY LEVEL AND THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE
7 HEALTH CARE OR OTHER BENEFITS;

8 (IV) MAY BE PROVIDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER EMPLOYERS
9 TO ADDRESS COMMON WORKFORCE NEEDS; AND

10 (V) SHALL INCLUDE AGREED UPON PROCESSES TO FOLLOW UP
11 WITH EMPLOYERS AND EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE TRAINING AND WHETHER
12 IT MEETS THE GOALS OF THE STEP PROGRAM.

13 18-407.

14 (A) BY JANUARY 1 ~~OF EACH YEAR, 2003 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,~~ THE
15 BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
16 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE
17 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.

18 (B) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER INFORMATION DETERMINED BY THE BOARD,
19 USING THE DATA COLLECTED AND PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE REPORT
20 SHALL:

21 (1) SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS THAT:

22 (I) HAVE APPLIED FOR TRAINING AND SERVICES TO BE FUNDED
23 BY THE STEP PROGRAM IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR;

24 (II) ARE PURSUING SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND THE EXTENT TO
25 WHICH THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE SUCCEEDING IN THE TRAINING;

26 (III) HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SKILLS-BASED TRAINING;

27 (IV) ARE RECEIVING WRAPAROUND SERVICES FUNDED BY THE
28 STEP PROGRAM AND THE TYPE OF SERVICES FUNDED;

29 (V) HAVE OBTAINED ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT ON COMPLETION
30 OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND ANY CHANGE IN WAGES OR BENEFITS RECEIVED;
31 AND

32 (VI) ARE PARTICIPATING IN EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING
33 PROGRAMS AND THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF EMPLOYERS PARTICIPATING IN THESE
34 PROGRAMS; AND

1 (2) PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF THE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE
2 STEP PROGRAM BASED ON THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD UNDER §
3 18-404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

4 18-408.

5 THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE "STEP PROGRAM".

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
7 General Assembly that if a portion of the STEP Program is funded with moneys from
8 the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant, a local
9 workforce investment board that receives a STEP Program grant shall make best
10 efforts to direct a proportionate amount of STEP Program funds to services for
11 individuals ~~that~~ who are current or recent recipients of TANF Program or Family
12 Investment Program services.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
14 General Assembly that a local workforce investment board that receives a STEP
15 Program grant shall make best efforts to ensure that STEP Program funds are
16 directed primarily towards services for ~~low-income~~ low-income working parents.

17 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June
19 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.