

SENATE BILL 367

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2001 Regular Session
11r1198
CF 11r1324

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

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2001

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2001

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
16 develop certain processes and programs, provide for the creation of certain
17 accounts, ensure that eligible individuals make certain applications prior to use
18 of certain funds, coordinate with certain programs that provide wraparound
19 services, assist eligible individuals in making certain applications prior to use of
20 certain funds, collect and report certain data, and comply with certain
21 performance evaluation requirements; requiring a local workforce investment
22 board that receives a STEP Program grant to develop certain employer-based
23 training programs that meet certain requirements; requiring the Department to
24 distribute STEP Program grants consistent with certain recommendations, to
25 establish certain financial and data collection procedures, and to provide certain
26 technical assistance; requiring the Board to submit a certain annual report by a
27 certain date; expressing the intent of the General Assembly if certain funds are

1 used; expressing the intent of the General Assembly that certain funds be
2 directed primarily to certain individuals; defining certain terms; providing for
3 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the creation of the
4 Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot Program.

5 BY adding to

6 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
7 Section 18-401 through 18-408, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle
8 4. Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot
9 Program"
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

12 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, Helping low-income working parents access career ladders for
28 employment promotion to better jobs with higher wages and employer provided
29 benefits can result in long-term improvements in the economic well-being of
30 low-income families thereby reducing the likelihood of future public assistance needs;
31 and

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

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

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

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

4 SUBTITLE 4. SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION
5 (STEP) PILOT PROGRAM.

6 18-401.

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

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

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

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

17 (II) PROVIDE ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL CAREER LADDERS FOR
18 CONTINUED JOB ADVANCEMENT; AND

19 (III) ELIMINATE FUTURE NEEDS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;

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

22 (4) COORDINATE WITH AND NOT DUPLICATE EXISTING STATE
23 PROGRAMS.

24 18-402.

25 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
26 INDICATED.

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

30 (C) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND
31 REGULATION.

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

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

4 (2) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

5 (3) LIVES IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH AN INCOME THAT IS NOT MORE THAN
6 200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; AND

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

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

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

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

11 ~~(5) 2.~~ HAS WORKED IN ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES LISTED IN ~~ITEM (4) OF THIS~~
12 ~~SUBSECTION~~ ITEM (I)1 OF THIS ITEM FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS; OR

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

16 (E) (1) "EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING" MEANS SKILLS-BASED TRAINING
17 THAT:

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

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

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

22 (2) "EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING" MAY INCLUDE APPROVED IN-HOUSE
23 EMPLOYER TRAINING AND EMPLOYER TRAINING PROGRAMS DEVELOPED IN
24 COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OR OTHER
25 TRAINING PROVIDERS.

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

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

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

33 (G) "LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD" MEANS A BOARD
34 ESTABLISHED TO ADMINISTER SERVICES IN A WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA

1 ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
2 ARTICLE.

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

9 (I) "STEP PROGRAM" MEANS THE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR
10 EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION PILOT PROGRAM CREATED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

11 (J) "WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA" MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA
12 DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR AS A SERVICE DELIVERY AREA UNDER SUBTITLE 5
13 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

14 (K) (1) "WRAPAROUND SERVICES" MEANS SERVICES THAT ARE NECESSARY
15 TO ENABLE AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL TO PARTICIPATE IN AN APPROVED
16 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM.

17 (2) "WRAPAROUND SERVICES" INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH
18 CARE, CHILD CARE, MEALS, TEMPORARY HOUSING, AND OTHER REASONABLE
19 EXPENSES REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE APPROVED SKILLS-BASED
20 TRAINING PROGRAM.

21 18-403.

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

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

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

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

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

36 (1) MONEY INCLUDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE BUDGET OF THE
37 DEPARTMENT;

1 (2) MONEY FROM ANY PRIVATE SOURCE; AND

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

6 18-404.

7 (A) TO APPLY FOR A GRANT UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM, A LOCAL
8 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD.

9 (B) THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
10 BOARD SHALL:

11 (1) IDENTIFY:

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

15 (II) THE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES
16 THAT THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD INTENDS TO FUND THROUGH
17 THE STEP PROGRAM; AND

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

19 (C) THE BOARD SHALL:

20 (1) EVALUATE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY LOCAL WORKFORCE
21 INVESTMENT BOARDS AND RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT THE DISTRIBUTION
22 OF GRANTS TO LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS UNDER THE STEP
23 PROGRAM;

24 (2) INCLUDE IN THE EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATIONS,
25 CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

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

30 (II) THE LEVEL OF EXISTING LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
31 BOARD TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS; AND

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

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

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

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

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

9 18-405.

10 (A) AFTER RECEIVING THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD,
11 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE AND ADMINISTER THE STEP PROGRAM GRANT
12 FUNDS TO THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS IN A MANNER
13 CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

14 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

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

18 (2) ESTABLISH DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES THAT PROVIDE FOR
19 THE COLLECTION, TRACKING, AND REPORTING TO THE BOARD OF STEP PROGRAM
20 DATA NEEDED BY THE BOARD TO COMPLETE THE REPORTING AND EVALUATION
21 REQUIREMENTS OF THE STEP PROGRAM; AND

22 (3) ASSIST IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL
23 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

24 18-406.

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

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

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

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

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

5 (5) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTREACH PROGRAM TO ENSURE
6 THAT ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND EMPLOYERS OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS ARE
7 AWARE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM THAT MAY
8 INCLUDE:

9 (I) A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE HOTLINE;

10 (II) DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS;

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

15 (IV) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION OF PUBLIC ENTITIES AND
16 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS;

17 (V) COORDINATION OF OUTREACH AND MARKETING EFFORTS
18 AMONG LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS THAT RECEIVE STEP PROGRAM
19 GRANTS; AND

20 (VI) AN INTERNET WEBSITE WITH INTERNET LINKS BETWEEN THE
21 WEBSITES OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, THE
22 DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE MARYLAND
23 HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL
24 INSTITUTIONS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS;

25 (6) ASSIST ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE COMPLETED
26 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT WITH INCREASED WAGES
27 AND BENEFITS;

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

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

31 (II) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO OBTAIN
32 ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT ON COMPLETION OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND ANY
33 CHANGE IN WAGES AND BENEFITS RECEIVED; AND

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

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

1 (B) (1) IN ADDITION TO SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND
2 SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS UNDER SUBSECTION (A)
3 OF THIS SECTION, A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT RECEIVES A
4 STEP PROGRAM GRANT SHALL WORK IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS TO
5 DEVELOP APPROVED EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH
6 PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

7 (2) APPROVED EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS:

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

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

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

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

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

22 18-407.

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

27 (B) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER INFORMATION DETERMINED BY THE BOARD,
28 USING THE DATA COLLECTED AND PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE REPORT
29 SHALL:

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

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

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

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

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

3 (V) HAVE OBTAINED ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT ON COMPLETION
4 OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND ANY CHANGE IN WAGES OR BENEFITS RECEIVED;
5 AND

6 (VI) ARE PARTICIPATING IN EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING
7 PROGRAMS AND THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF EMPLOYERS PARTICIPATING IN THESE
8 PROGRAMS; AND

9 (2) PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF THE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE
10 STEP PROGRAM BASED ON THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD UNDER §
11 18-404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

12 18-408.

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

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
15 General Assembly that if a portion of the STEP Program is funded with moneys from
16 the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant, a local
17 workforce investment board that receives a STEP Program grant shall make best
18 efforts to direct a proportionate amount of STEP Program funds to services for
19 individuals that are current or recent recipients of TANF Program or Family
20 Investment Program services.

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

25 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June
27 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
28 abrogated and of no further force and effect.