

THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS GROUP

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2005 and Engrossed House and Senate Economic Stimulus Bills

The Workforce Solutions Act of 2005 is a package of Legislative and Budget proposals to improve the MA workforce development system and will increase the ability of low-income, low-skill workers to obtain the skills they need to reach self-sufficiency and increase the competitiveness of MA companies. **Lead House Sponsor (H 3940): Rep. Lida Harkins, Lead Senate Sponsor (S 1112): Sen. Thomas McGee PLUS 99 Legislators.** Many of its provisions were included in **H 4429**, An Act Relative to Economic Investments to Promote Job Creation, Economic Stability, and Competitiveness in the Massachusetts Economy and **S 2264** the Commonwealth Investment Plan. **The House and Senate are currently negotiating a compromise between these two bills.**

| Programs and the Proposed Improvements | FY'05 Budget | Workforce Solutions Act Proposed FY'06 | FY 06 Budget | House Econ. Stim. (H-4429) Additional Resources | Sen. Econ. Stim. (S-2264) Additional Resources |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 7003-0702 Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund – Proposes public funds match to employer training contributions. Builds collaborative training, education & skills development programs among employers within a region or industry sector; increases cooperation among employers, workforce development system, & others including labor unions and community based organizations. Grants may be used to train or education the unemployed, low income individuals, low wage workers, vulnerable youth and older workers in need of retraining. | \$6,000,000 Economic Stimulus bill | \$20,000,000 | \$ -- | \$11,000,000 | \$ -- |
| 7003-0701 Workforce Training Fund - Expands the use of the fund to support sectoral initiatives that increase the skills of workers and the competitiveness of MA industries; extends the sunset from 2005 to 2010. | \$21,000,000 | \$21,000,000 | \$21,000,000 | Extends to 2010 | Extends to 2010 |
| 7035-0002 Adult Basic Education - Increases funds by \$7 million per year in each of the next five years with a focus on workplace education. | \$27,813,209 | \$35,813,208 | \$29,322,628 | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| 7003-0803 One-Stop Career Centers - Expands resources for the centers to better serve customers; ensures that customers will receive information necessary to make informed choices about training programs; and establishes a mechanism for the state to monitor efficacy. | \$3,750,000 | \$6,200,000 | \$4,000,000 | \$2,000,000 | \$2,000,000 |
| 4401-1000 Employment Service Program - Increases the funds available to recipients of welfare for education and training. | \$18,998,978 | \$27,047,902 | \$21,047,902 | \$-- | \$-- |
| NEW Educational Rewards - New program to enable 4,000+ low-income, under-educated working adults to attend community or state college and obtain an associate's degree or industry recognized credential; will target part-time students typically ineligible for most financial aid. | \$-- | \$6,000,000 | \$-- | \$3,000,000 | \$-- |
| 7027-0019 School-to-Career Connecting Activities - Increases worksite learning experiences connected to the classroom for at-risk students. | \$4,129,687 | \$9,000,000 | \$4,129,687 | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| TOTAL: | \$ 81,691,874 | \$125,061,110 | \$79,500,217 | \$22,000,000 | \$8,000,000 |

POLICY ISSUES: **1. Performance Standards and Workforce Accountability Taskforce** created to identify system improvements that maximize resource allocations, prioritize the systems' activities and define success. **2. Food Stamp Employment and Training Program** authorized to secure additional federal matching funds for money spent on education and training for food stamp recipients working in low wage jobs.

