

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

H. B. No. 2

Representatives Cross, Lepore-Hagan

A BILL

To enact sections 122.178, 122.179, and 122.1710 of
the Revised Code to create the TechCred Program
and the Individual Microcredential Assistance
Program, to develop a grant program to support
industry sector partnerships, and to make an
appropriation. 1
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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 122.178, 122.179, and 122.1710 of
the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 7
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Sec. 122.178. (A) As used in this section and section
122.179 of the Revised Code, "microcredential" means a
certificate program or other industry-recognized credential that
the chancellor of higher education includes on the inventory
created under section 3333.94 of the Revised Code and that an
applicant may complete in not more than one year. 9
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(B) There is hereby created the TechCred program to
reimburse eligible employers from appropriations made for that
purpose for training costs for incumbent or prospective
employees to earn a microcredential. The development services
agency, in consultation with the governor's office of workforce 15
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transformation and the department of higher education, shall 20
develop the program. 21

(C) (1) An employer shall meet all of the following 22
requirements to be eligible to participate in the program: 23

(a) Be registered to do business in this state; 24

(b) Be current on all tax obligations to the state; 25

(c) Be in compliance with all environmental regulations 26
applicable to the employer. 27

(2) An eligible employer may only apply for reimbursement 28
for training costs for incumbent or prospective employees who 29
are residents of this state. 30

(D) (1) Each employer seeking reimbursement for training 31
costs for an incumbent or prospective employee shall submit an 32
application to the director of development services that 33
includes all of the following information for each employee: 34

(a) The employee's name and position at the time of 35
submitting the application or the position for which the 36
employee will be qualified after earning the microcredential; 37

(b) The training provider from which the employee received 38
the training; 39

(c) The cost incurred by the employer for the training; 40

(d) Evidence that the employee earned a microcredential; 41

(e) Either of the following, as applicable: 42

(i) If the employee is an incumbent employee, evidence 43
that the employer has increased the employee's annual wage by at 44
least double the amount of the reimbursement the employer 45
requested for that employee on the employee's completion of the 46

microcredential; 47

(ii) If the employee at the time of receiving the training 48
was a prospective employee, evidence that the employer hired the 49
employee for a position located in this state on the employee's 50
completion of the microcredential. 51

(2) The director shall approve applications for 52
reimbursement based on the priority guidelines established in 53
division (E) (2) of this section. The director shall calculate 54
the amount of a reimbursement as the total amount of the costs 55
for all employees receiving the training. An employer shall 56
receive at least five hundred dollars but not more than two 57
thousand dollars for each microcredential an employee receives. 58

(E) The director shall do all of the following regarding 59
the operation of the program: 60

(1) Create a reimbursement application; 61

(2) Establish guidelines for prioritizing approval for 62
applications for reimbursement, including the efficiency of a 63
wage increase for an incumbent employee or expected wage for a 64
prospective employee; 65

(3) Establish additional requirements for employers to be 66
eligible for a reimbursement under this section; 67

(4) Create an internet web site with the application for 68
and information regarding the program created in this section 69
and the grant program created in section 122.179 of the Revised 70
Code. 71

(F) The director, in consultation with the chancellor, may 72
adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code 73
as the director considers necessary to administer the program, 74

including designating eligible training providers for purposes 75
of this section and section 122.179 of the Revised Code. 76

Sec. 122.179. (A) As used in this section, "OhioMeansJobs 77
web site" has the same meaning as in section 6301.01 of the 78
Revised Code. 79

(B) The individual microcredential assistance program is 80
hereby created in the development services agency to provide 81
grants to eligible individuals to pay for the costs of training 82
to earn a microcredential. 83

(C) (1) An individual may apply to the director of 84
development services for a grant under the program. The 85
individual shall include all of the following information in the 86
application: 87

(a) The microcredential that the individual is receiving 88
training to earn; 89

(b) The training provider from which the individual is 90
receiving training; 91

(c) The cost of the training. 92

(2) The director shall make the grant application 93
available on the OhioMeansJobs web site and the internet web 94
sites maintained by the development services agency, the 95
governor's office of workforce transformation, and the 96
departments of higher education and education. 97

(D) The maximum amount of a grant awarded under the 98
program is five thousand dollars. If the director approves the 99
grant application, the director shall disperse half of the 100
amount of a grant to the training provider identified in the 101
application on behalf of the individual who applied before the 102

beginning of training. When the individual has completed half of 103
the training required to earn a microcredential, the training 104
provider shall submit evidence the individual has completed that 105
training and of the individual's enrollment in the remaining 106
training. The director shall disperse the remaining grant funds 107
on receiving the evidence. 108

(E) A training provider may seek to recover half of the 109
amount of the grant awarded to an individual under the program 110
if the individual fails to complete the training and earn a 111
microcredential from the provider. The provider may only recover 112
half of the grant amount from the individual, regardless of the 113
amount of the training the individual completed. 114

(F) The director may adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the 115
Revised Code as the director considers necessary to implement 116
this section. 117

Sec. 122.1710. (A) As used in this section: 118

(1) "Industry sector partnership" means a collaborative 119
relationship between one or more employers and one or more of 120
the following: 121

(a) A school district; 122

(b) A state institution of higher education; 123

(c) An Ohio technical center. 124

(2) "Ohio technical center" has the same meaning as in 125
section 3333.94 of the Revised Code. 126

(3) "State institution of higher education" has the same 127
meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code. 128

(B) The director of development services, in consultation 129

with the governor's office of workforce transformation, shall 130
develop a grant program to support regional industry sector 131
partnerships. An industry sector partnership may use a grant 132
awarded under this section to do any of the following: 133

(1) Hire employees to coordinate industry sector 134
partnership activities; 135

(2) Develop curricula or other educational resources to 136
support the industry sector partnership; 137

(3) Market the industry sector partnership and 138
opportunities the partnership creates for workforce development 139
activities; 140

(4) Any other activity the director has approved in rules 141
adopted under division (D) of this section. 142

(C) The director shall do both of the following: 143

(1) Establish a system for evaluating and scoring grant 144
applications; 145

(2) Award a grant to an industry sector partnership that 146
submits a complete application for funding describing the 147
activities in division (B) of this section the partnership will 148
use the funds to support and meets the scoring criteria 149
established under division (C) (1) of this section. 150

(D) The director may adopt rules in accordance with 151
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code as the director considers 152
necessary to administer the grant program. 153

Section 2. All items in this section are hereby 154
appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state 155
treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all 156
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are 157

for fiscal year 2020 and those in the second column are for 158
fiscal year 2021. The appropriations made in this act are in 159
addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2020-FY 160
2021 biennium. 161

DEV DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY 162

General Revenue Fund 163

GRF 195553 Industry Sector Partnerships \$2,500,000 \$2,500,000 164

GRF 195556 Microcredential Assistance \$30,000,000 \$30,000,000 165

Program 166

TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund \$32,500,000 \$32,500,000 167

TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS \$32,500,000 \$32,500,000 168

INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS 169

The foregoing appropriation item 195553, Industry Sector 170
Partnerships, shall be used for the grant program described in 171
section 122.1710 of the Revised Code. 172

MICROCREDENTIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 173

(A) Of the foregoing appropriation item 195556, 174
Microcredential Assistance Program, \$14,700,000 in each fiscal 175
year shall be used for the TechCred Program as described in 176
section 122.178 of the Revised Code, provided that: 177

(1) Not less than \$2,500,000 in each fiscal year shall be 178
awarded to businesses with 50 or fewer employees; 179

(2) Not less than \$2,500,000 in each fiscal year shall be 180
awarded to businesses with 200 or fewer employees, in addition 181
to the minimum amount allocated under division (A) (1) of this 182
section; and 183

(3) Not less than \$2,250,000 in each fiscal year shall be 184
awarded to businesses with 200 or more employees. 185

(B) Of the foregoing appropriation item 195556, 186
Microcredential Assistance Program, \$14,700,000 in each fiscal 187
year shall be used for the Individual Microcredential Assistance 188
Program as described in section 122.179 of the Revised Code. 189

(C) Of the foregoing appropriation item 195556, 190
Microcredential Assistance Program, \$600,000 in each fiscal year 191
may be used to cover operating costs of the TechCred Program and 192
the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program. 193

Section 3. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 194
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 195
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 196
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 197
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 198
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 199
as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the 200
133rd General Assembly. 201

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all 202
provisions of the main operating appropriations act of the 133rd 203
General Assembly that are generally applicable to such 204
appropriations. 205