Introduced by Assembly Member Burke

December 3, 2018

An act to amend Section 12098.1 of, and to add Section 12098.8 to, the Government Code, relating to workforce economic development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 23, as amended, Burke. Workforce training programs. Office of Small Business Advocate: Deputy of Business and Workforce Coordination.

The California Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act establishes the California Workforce Development Board as the body responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California’s workforce investment system and the alignment of the education and workforce investment systems to the needs of the 21st century economy and workforce.

Existing law establishes the Office of Small Business Advocate within the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, also known as GO-Biz, and prescribes the duties and functions of the Small Business Advocate, who is also the Director of the Office of Small Business Advocate. Among these duties, the director is to serve as the principal advocate in the state on behalf of small businesses and to represent the views and interests of small businesses before other state agencies the policies and activities of which may affect small businesses.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to incentivize systems that better facilitate communication and partnerships between businesses, labor advocates, and educational...
institutions for the purpose of creating tailored workforce training programs that both increase worker participation and further the attainment of increased skills.

establish a Deputy of Business and Workforce Coordination in the Office of Small Business Advocate, to be appointed by the Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development. The bill would require the deputy to collaborate and coordinate with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, State Department of Education, and Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to engage industry and business to better align career technical education courses, workforce training programs, and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs with regional and local labor market demand. The bill would require the deputy to establish a team to cover all industry sectors across all regions in the state to execute the mission and responsibilities of the deputy. The bill would require the deputy to prepare and submit to the Legislature a biennial report on outreach efforts and progress, as prescribed. The bill would define terms for its purposes. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.


The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) California’s labor market is increasingly reliant upon a better-trained workforce.

(2) California has a projected shortfall of one to one and one-half million workers with some postsecondary education, but not a bachelor’s degree.

(3) If California is unable to adequately address workforce needs, this state risks foregoing economic opportunities and reducing our market competitiveness, thus limiting or altering our state’s economic growth.

(4) Wages increase on average from 20 to 30 percent when comparing California workers who have had some postsecondary education to those with only a high school diploma.

(5) It is critical for California to not only address the widening gap between the trained labor supply and the demand for high-growth professions but to also incentivize further training in
low-growth occupations to facilitate upward economic mobility for Californians working in those occupations.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to incentivize systems that better facilitate communication and partnerships between businesses, labor advocates, and educational institutions for the purpose of creating tailored workforce training programs that both increase worker participation and further the attainment of increased skills.

SEC. 2. Section 12098.1 of the Government Code is amended to read:

12098.1. The following definitions apply to this article, unless otherwise indicated:

(a) “Advocate” means the Small Business Advocate who is also the Director of the Office of Small Business Advocate.

(b) “Deputy” means the Deputy of Business and Workforce Coordination.

(c) “Director” means the Director of the Office of Small Business Advocate.

(d) “Office” means the Office of Small Business Advocate.

SEC. 3. Section 12098.8 is added to the Government Code, to read:

12098.8. (a) The Deputy of Business and Workforce Coordination is hereby established in the office. The Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development shall appoint the deputy.

(b) The deputy shall collaborate and coordinate with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, State Department of Education, and Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to engage industry and business to better align career technical education courses, workforce training programs, and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs with regional and local labor market demand. The deputy shall establish a team to cover all industry sectors across all regions in the state to execute the mission and responsibilities of the deputy. As used in this subdivision, “industry sectors” and “region” have the same meaning as each term is defined in Section 88822 of the Education Code.
(c) The deputy shall prepare and submit to the Legislature, on a biennial basis, a report on outreach efforts and progress towards aligning career technical education courses, workforce training programs, and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs with regional and local labor market demand.

(d) (1) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under subdivision (c) is inoperative on January 1, 2024, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

(2) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (c) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.