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An act to add Article 4 (commencing with Section 14040) to Chapter 3 of Division 7 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to workforce development.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Article 4 (commencing with Section 14040) is added to Chapter 3 of Division 7 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, to read:

Article 4. Prison to Employment Program

14040. For purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Earn and learn" has the same meaning as in subdivision (q) of Section 14005.

(b) "Justice involved" refers to individuals who are on parole, probation, mandatory supervision, or postrelease community supervision and are supervised by, or are under the jurisdiction of, a county or the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(c) "Prison to employment regional partnership" or "regional partnership" means a partnership established to develop a regional plan that coordinates reentry and workforce services in each of the state's 14 workforce regions established pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128), so that the formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals in these regions can find and retain employment. Partners in a regional partnership shall include local workforce development boards, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Adult Parole Operations, community-based organizations that serve the formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals, and reentry service providers. Partners may include other stakeholders, as specified by the board.

(d) "Prison to employment regional plan" or "regional plan" is the plan developed by a regional partnership to coordinate reentry and workforce services in each of the state's 14 workforce regions. The prison to employment regional plan is a component of each federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act regional workforce plan.

(e) "Supportive services" are services necessary to enable an individual to successfully participate in, or receive, workforce, education, and other related services authorized under subdivision (c) of Section 1234.3 of the Penal Code, Section 14035 of this code, as well as the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and its corresponding regulations.

(f) "Workforce, education, and related services" include services authorized under subdivision (c) of Section 1234.3 of the Penal Code, Section 14035 of this code, as well as the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and its corresponding regulations.

14041. The board shall administer a prison to employment program pursuant to this article and shall award grants for the following purposes:

(a) The development of regional partnerships and regional plans to provide and coordinate the necessary workforce, education, and related services that formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals need to secure and retain employment and reduce the chances of recidivism.

(b) The implementation of the regional plans, including the provision of workforce, education, and related services and supportive services outlined in these regional plans.

(c) The provision of earn and learn opportunities for formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals participating in the program.



14042. (a) Prior to awarding grants pursuant to Section 14041, the board shall develop and adopt guidelines and policies for the program, including, but not limited to, required regional plan content, required and optional regional plan partners, required activities of the regional partnerships, and guidelines for the allocation of grants, including planning guidance, timelines, and selection criteria for the distribution and evaluation of grant awards. The board shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the need for workforce services for the formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals in each region, the size of post-release populations, and the recidivism rate in each region.

(b) The board shall ensure that the guidelines developed pursuant to subdivision(a) are consistent with paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 1234.2 of, and subdivision (b) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of Section 1234.3 of, the Penal Code, and Section 14031 of, and paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) and paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 14032 of, this code.

(c) Grants made pursuant to this article shall be evaluated using criteria consistent with those set forth in subdivisions (b) to (d), inclusive, of Sections 14033. The board may utilize additional criteria to evaluate these grants.

(d) (1) The criteria guidelines, and policies shall be exempt from the rule-making provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(2) The board shall make the criteria, guidelines, and policies available to the public.



## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_  
as introduced, \_\_\_\_\_.  
General Subject: Workforce Development Board: prison-to-employment grant program.

Under existing law, the California Workforce Development Board is 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, until January 1, 2021, establishes the Supervised Population Workforce Training Grant Program to be administered, as provided, by the board. Existing law also establishes the Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative to be implemented, as provided, by the board.

This bill would require the board to administer a prison-to-employment program and award grants for purposes that include the development of regional partnerships and regional plans to provide and coordinate the necessary workforce, education, supportive, and related services, as defined, that formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals, as defined, need to secure and retain employment and reduce the chances of recidivism. The bill would require the board to develop, consistent with specified provisions of existing law, guidelines for the program, including, but not limited to, required regional plan content, required and optional regional plan partners, required activities of the regional partnerships, and guidelines for the allocation of grants, including planning guidance, timelines, and selection criteria for the distribution and evaluation of grant awards.

This bill would authorize the board to adopt criteria, guidelines, and policies regarding the prison-to-employment program, as specified; would exempt those criteria, guidelines, and policies from the rule-making provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act; and would require the board to make the criteria, guidelines, and policies available to the public.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

