

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to job incentives; providing a short
 3 title; specifying purpose; creating the Floridians
 4 Back to Work Program within the Division of Workforce
 5 Services of the Department of Economic Opportunity;
 6 providing duties of the division; requiring the
 7 division to adopt rules to implement the program and
 8 administer funding; authorizing wage subsidies of
 9 specified amounts for employers that hire job
 10 applicants meeting certain conditions for specified
 11 lengths of time; conditioning implementation of the
 12 program upon an appropriation in the General
 13 Appropriations Act; providing an effective date.

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 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Floridians Back to Work Program.—

18 (1) This section may be cited as the "Floridians Back to
 19 Work Program."

20 (2) The purpose of the program is to offset the cost of
 21 hiring new workers and to encourage employers to create long-
 22 term, private-sector employment for Floridians.

23 (3) To accomplish the purpose of this program, the
 24 Floridians Back to Work Program is created within the Division
 25 of Workforce Services of the Department of Economic Opportunity.
 26 The division shall carry out its responsibility to achieve the
 27 duties, responsibilities, and goals of the department to manage
 28 the activities of public-private partnerships as provided in s.

29 20.60(4)(e), Florida Statutes, by promoting the establishment of
 30 public-private partnerships with employers for the purpose of
 31 transitioning residents of this state from receiving
 32 unemployment compensation to becoming employed as members of the
 33 workforce.

34 (4) The division, in consultation with Workforce Florida,
 35 Inc., and its board, shall adopt rules that implement the
 36 Floridians Back to Work Program and appropriately administer
 37 federal and state workforce funding for implementation of the
 38 program through the communication of program and fiscal
 39 instructions to regional workforce boards throughout the state.

40 (5) The program shall authorize a participating employer
 41 to receive a wage subsidy of up to \$2,000 for the hiring of each
 42 qualified job applicant. A participating employer must retain a
 43 newly hired applicant for at least the following lengths of time
 44 in order to receive a wage subsidy:

- 45 (a) Thirty days to receive a subsidy of \$500.
- 46 (b) Sixty days to receive a subsidy of \$1,000.
- 47 (c) Ninety days to receive a subsidy of \$1,500.
- 48 (d) One hundred twenty days to receive a full subsidy of
 49 \$2,000.

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 51 An employer may not receive a wage subsidy calculated on a pro
 52 rata basis in any amount other than as provided in paragraphs
 53 (a) - (d).

54 (6) For purposes of the program, a "qualified job
 55 applicant" means a person who:

- 56 (a) Is unemployed at the time of hire.

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57 (b) Is currently receiving unemployment compensation or
58 has received unemployment compensation at any time within 12
59 months before the time of hire.

60 (c) Is hired for at least 30 hours per week.

61 (d) Made less than \$15 per hour at his or her last
62 employment before becoming unemployed.

63 (7) The implementation of the Floridians Back to Work
64 Program as created under this section is subject to an
65 appropriation in the General Appropriations Act.

66 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.