

By Senator Ring

32-00419-12

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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.

14  
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
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

32-00419-12

2012612

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 to  
41 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.

50  
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.

57 (b) Is currently receiving unemployment compensation or has  
58 received unemployment compensation at any time within 12 months

32-00419-12

2012612\_\_

59 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.