

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Brodeur offered the following:

2  
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Between lines 36 and 37, insert:

5 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
6 445.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 445.003 Implementation of the federal Workforce Investment  
8 Act of 1998.—

9 (3) FUNDING.—

10 (a) Title I, Workforce Investment Act of 1998 funds;  
11 Wagner-Peyser funds; and NAFTA/Trade Act funds will be expended  
12 based on the 5-year plan of Workforce Florida, Inc. The plan  
13 shall outline and direct the method used to administer and  
14 coordinate various funds and programs that are operated by  
15 various agencies. The following provisions shall also apply to  
16 these funds:

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17           1. At least 50 percent of the Title I funds for Adults and  
18 Dislocated Workers that are passed through to regional workforce  
19 boards shall be allocated to and expended on Individual Training  
20 Accounts unless a regional workforce board obtains a waiver from  
21 Workforce Florida, Inc. Tuition, books, and fees of training  
22 providers and other training services prescribed and authorized  
23 by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 qualify as ~~an~~ Individual  
24 Training Account expenditures ~~expenditure,~~ ~~as do other programs~~  
25 ~~developed by regional workforce boards in compliance with~~  
26 ~~policies of Workforce Florida, Inc.~~

27           2. Fifteen percent of Title I funding shall be retained at  
28 the state level and shall be dedicated to state administration  
29 and used to design, develop, induce, and fund innovative  
30 Individual Training Account pilots, demonstrations, and  
31 programs. Of such funds retained at the state level, \$2 million  
32 shall be reserved for the Incumbent Worker Training Program,  
33 created under subparagraph 3. Eligible state administration  
34 costs include the costs of: funding for the board and staff of  
35 Workforce Florida, Inc.; operating fiscal, compliance, and  
36 management accountability systems through Workforce Florida,  
37 Inc.; conducting evaluation and research on workforce  
38 development activities; and providing technical and capacity  
39 building assistance to regions at the direction of Workforce  
40 Florida, Inc. Notwithstanding s. 445.004, such administrative  
41 costs shall not exceed 25 percent of these funds. An amount not  
42 to exceed 75 percent of these funds shall be allocated to  
43 Individual Training Accounts and other workforce development  
44 strategies for other training designed and tailored by Workforce  
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45 Florida, Inc., including, but not limited to, programs for  
46 incumbent workers, displaced homemakers, nontraditional  
47 employment, and enterprise zones. Workforce Florida, Inc., shall  
48 design, adopt, and fund Individual Training Accounts for  
49 distressed urban and rural communities.

50 3. The Incumbent Worker Training Program is created for  
51 the purpose of providing grant funding for continuing education  
52 and training of incumbent employees at existing Florida  
53 businesses. The program will provide reimbursement grants to  
54 businesses that pay for preapproved, direct, training-related  
55 costs.

56 a. The Incumbent Worker Training Program will be  
57 administered by Workforce Florida, Inc. Workforce Florida, Inc.,  
58 at its discretion, may contract with a private business  
59 organization to serve as grant administrator.

60 b. To be eligible for the program's grant funding, a  
61 business must have been in operation in Florida for a minimum of  
62 1 year prior to the application for grant funding; have at least  
63 one full-time employee; demonstrate financial viability; and be  
64 current on all state tax obligations. Priority for funding shall  
65 be given to businesses with 25 employees or fewer, businesses in  
66 rural areas, businesses in distressed inner-city areas,  
67 businesses in a qualified targeted industry, businesses whose  
68 grant proposals represent a significant upgrade in employee  
69 skills, or businesses whose grant proposals represent a  
70 significant layoff avoidance strategy.

71 c. All costs reimbursed by the program must be preapproved  
72 by Workforce Florida, Inc., or the grant administrator. The  
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73 program will not reimburse businesses for trainee wages, the  
74 purchase of capital equipment, or the purchase of any item or  
75 service that may possibly be used outside the training project.  
76 A business approved for a grant may be reimbursed for  
77 preapproved, direct, training-related costs including tuition;  
78 fees; books and training materials; and overhead or indirect  
79 costs not to exceed 5 percent of the grant amount.

80 d. A business that is selected to receive grant funding  
81 must provide a matching contribution to the training project,  
82 including, but not limited to, wages paid to trainees or the  
83 purchase of capital equipment used in the training project; must  
84 sign an agreement with Workforce Florida, Inc., or the grant  
85 administrator to complete the training project as proposed in  
86 the application; must keep accurate records of the project's  
87 implementation process; and must submit monthly or quarterly  
88 reimbursement requests with required documentation.

89 e. All Incumbent Worker Training Program grant projects  
90 shall be performance-based with specific measurable performance  
91 outcomes, including completion of the training project and job  
92 retention. Workforce Florida, Inc., or the grant administrator  
93 shall withhold the final payment to the grantee until a final  
94 grant report is submitted and all performance criteria specified  
95 in the grant contract have been achieved.

96 f. Workforce Florida, Inc., may establish guidelines  
97 necessary to implement the Incumbent Worker Training Program.

98 g. No more than 10 percent of the Incumbent Worker  
99 Training Program's total appropriation may be used for overhead  
100 or indirect purposes.

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101 4. At least 50 percent of Rapid Response funding shall be  
102 dedicated to Intensive Services Accounts and Individual Training  
103 Accounts for dislocated workers and incumbent workers who are at  
104 risk of dislocation. Workforce Florida, Inc., shall also  
105 maintain an Emergency Preparedness Fund from Rapid Response  
106 funds which will immediately issue Intensive Service Accounts  
107 and Individual Training Accounts as well as other federally  
108 authorized assistance to eligible victims of natural or other  
109 disasters. At the direction of the Governor, for events that  
110 qualify under federal law, these Rapid Response funds shall be  
111 released to regional workforce boards for immediate use. Funding  
112 shall also be dedicated to maintain a unit at the state level to  
113 respond to Rapid Response emergencies around the state, to work  
114 with state emergency management officials, and to work with  
115 regional workforce boards. All Rapid Response funds must be  
116 expended based on a plan developed by Workforce Florida, Inc.,  
117 and approved by the Governor.

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**T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

121 Between lines 2 and 3, insert:  
122 s. 445.003, F.S.; requiring certain funds to be expended on  
123 Individual Training Accounts; revising items that qualify as  
124 account expenditures; amending