

By Senator Braynon

35-00265-18

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2       An act relating to trust funds; creating s. 445.015,  
 3       F.S.; creating the Florida Business and Workforce  
 4       Competitiveness Trust Fund within the State Treasury,  
 5       to be administered by the Department of Economic  
 6       Opportunity; providing the purpose of the trust fund;  
 7       requiring trust fund moneys to be provided to local  
 8       workforce development boards to award and administer  
 9       certain grants; specifying duties of CareerSource  
 10      Florida, Inc., with respect to the trust fund;  
 11      providing that trust fund moneys are composed of a  
 12      specified assessment to be imposed on certain  
 13      employers; limiting eligibility of grants to certain  
 14      employers; providing requirements and limitations for  
 15      the assessment and administrative costs; providing for  
 16      future review and termination or re-creation of the  
 17      trust fund; providing a directive to the Division of  
 18      Law Revision and Information; providing an effective  
 19      date.

20  
 21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
 23       Section 1. Section 445.015, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 24       read:

25       445.015 Florida Business and Workforce Competitiveness  
 26       Trust Fund.—

27       (1) The Florida Business and Workforce Competitiveness  
 28       Trust Fund is created within the State Treasury and is to be  
 29       administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity.

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30       (2) The trust fund is established for use as an additional  
31 revenue source to support the growth of businesses in this state  
32 and to provide workforce training needed to effectively address  
33 changing skill requirements as a result of new technology,  
34 retooling, new product lines, and new organizational  
35 structuring.

36       (3) Funds credited to the trust fund must be provided to  
37 local workforce development boards, appointed under s. 445.007,  
38 to award incentive grants to employers to hire unemployment  
39 compensation claimants. Each local workforce development board  
40 shall determine award recipients and administer grants within  
41 the funding available to it.

42       (4) CareerSource Florida, Inc., shall:

43       (a) Establish guidelines governing the administration of  
44 the trust fund;

45       (b) Establish criteria to be used by local workforce  
46 development boards in evaluating applications for funding; and

47       (c) Allocate to each local workforce development board its  
48 share of funds available under the trust fund.

49       (5) Moneys in the trust fund are composed of a quarterly  
50 employment and training investment assessment imposed beginning  
51 July 1, 2018, on each employer paying contributions under s.  
52 443.131 at a rate below the maximum contribution rate of 5.4  
53 percent as provided in s. 443.131(3)(e)2.a.(V). The assessment  
54 must be a separate assessment of one-tenth of 1 percent of  
55 wages, as described under s. 443.1217, paid by the employer.

56       (a) An employer is eligible for a grant award only if the  
57 employer is subject to paying contributions under s. 443.131 and  
58 is subject to the assessment.

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59       (b) The assessment is due at the same time, must be  
60 collected in the same manner, and is subject to the same  
61 penalties and interest as other contributions assessed under s.  
62 443.131.

63       (c) The assessment may not be imposed for any year in which  
64 the balance in the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund requires  
65 the computation of a positive adjustment factor as provided in  
66 s. 443.131(3)(e)2.a.(III).

67       (d) Administrative costs associated with the collection of  
68 the trust fund must be paid out of revenue generated from the  
69 assessment. The cost of collection and administration of the  
70 assessment under this subsection must be allocated based on a  
71 plan approved by the United States Department of Labor.

72       (6) In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State  
73 Constitution, the Florida Business and Workforce Competitiveness  
74 Trust Fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be terminated 4  
75 years after the effective date of this act. Before its scheduled  
76 termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in s.  
77 215.3206(1) and (2).

78       Section 2. The Division of Law Revision and Information is  
79 directed to replace the phrase "4 years after the effective date  
80 of this act" where it occurs in this act with the date the trust  
81 fund will terminate.

82       Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.