

As Introduced

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H. B. No. 1030

Representative Williams

Cosponsor: Representative Odioso

To amend sections 122.178 and 4141.162 and to enact
section 122.1714 of the Revised Code regarding
approved credentials of value for purposes of
the TechCred Program and Individual
Microcredential Assistance Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 122.178 and 4141.162 be amended
and section 122.1714 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as
follows:

Sec. 122.178. (A) As used in this section,
"microcredential" means an industry-recognized credential or
certificate that an applicant may complete in not more than one
year and that is approved by the chancellor of higher education.

(B) There is hereby created the TechCred program to
reimburse employers from appropriations made for that purpose
for training costs for prospective and incumbent employees to
earn a microcredential. The department of development, in
consultation with the governor's office of workforce
transformation and the department of higher education, shall
develop the program.

(C) (1) An employer seeking to participate in the program 20
shall submit an application to the director of development 21
during an application period established by the director. The 22
employer shall include in the application all of the following 23
information: 24

(a) Proof that the employer is registered to do business 25
in this state; 26

(b) Proof that the employer is current on all tax 27
obligations to the state; 28

(c) Proof that the employer is in compliance with all 29
environmental regulations applicable to the employer; 30

(d) The name of the training provider from which a 31
prospective or incumbent employee will receive the training and 32
earn the microcredential; 33

(e) The cost of the training; 34

(f) The positions for which earning the microcredential 35
will make a prospective or incumbent employee qualified or the 36
occupational skill set that the prospective or incumbent 37
employee will acquire on completing the training; 38

(g) The address of the facility or location at which the 39
prospective or incumbent employee is expected to be employed 40
after completing the training; 41

(h) Any other information the director requires. 42

(2) In addition to the information required under division 43
(C) (1) of this section, an employer seeking to participate in 44
the program also may submit any of the following information the 45
employer wishes to provide to the director: 46

(a) The estimated wage after completing the training and earning the microcredential; 47 48

(b) The employer's certification as a minority business enterprise under section 122.921 of the Revised Code or certification as an EDGE business enterprise under section 122.922 of the Revised Code if applicable; 49 50 51 52

(c) The demographic information of the employer, including race and gender; 53 54

(d) Any demographic information of a prospective or incumbent employee that the employee provides to the employer, including race and gender; 55 56 57

(e) Any other information the employer wishes to provide to the director. 58 59

(D) (1) The director shall consider all applications submitted during an application period after the application period ends. The director shall consider the following factors in determining whether to approve an application: 60 61 62 63

(a) The duration of the training program; 64

(b) The cost of the training; 65

(c) A prospective or incumbent employee's estimated wage after completing the training and earning the microcredential; 66 67

(d) Whether approving an application will promote regional diversity in apportioning reimbursements uniformly across the state; 68 69 70

(e) Any other factors the director considers relevant in determining whether to approve an application. 71 72

(2) The chancellor of higher education shall establish a 73

list of approved microcredentials. The chancellor shall not 74
approve a microcredential for inclusion in the chancellor's list 75
unless the microcredential is included in the list of 76
credentials of value established by the director under section 77
122.1714 of the Revised Code. The director shall not approve an 78
application submitted under division (C) of this section unless 79
the microcredentials identified in the application are included 80
in the chancellor's list. Not later than ninety days after April 81
14, 2020, the director shall create a list of training providers 82
that offer a microcredential included in the chancellor's list. 83
Thereafter, the director shall annually update the list of 84
training providers. 85

(3) If the director approves an employer's application for 86
participation in the program, the approval is valid as long as 87
the employer maintains accurate application information under 88
division (C)(1) of this section with the director. The employer 89
shall submit the updated information to the director at the 90
beginning of the third fiscal year the employer participates in 91
the program and every other subsequent fiscal year thereafter. 92

(4) The director shall not approve an application for 93
participation in the program if the employer has violated 94
Chapter 4111. of the Revised Code within the four fiscal years 95
immediately preceding the date of application. 96

(E)(1) Each participating employer seeking reimbursement 97
for training costs for a prospective or incumbent employee shall 98
submit an application to the director that includes all of the 99
following information for each prospective or incumbent 100
employee: 101

(a) The prospective or incumbent employee's name and 102
position, if applicable, at the time of submitting the 103

application; 104

(b) The actual amount the employer paid to the training 105
provider for the training; 106

(c) Evidence that the prospective or incumbent employee 107
earned a microcredential; 108

(d) Evidence that the prospective or incumbent employee is 109
a resident of this state. 110

(2) The amount of the reimbursement shall be not more than 111
two thousand dollars for each microcredential a prospective or 112
incumbent employee receives. 113

(F) No participating employer shall require a prospective 114
or incumbent employee who receives a microcredential because the 115
employer participated in and received a reimbursement through 116
the employer's participation in the TechCred program to accept 117
or continue employment with the employer. 118

(G) For the purposes of determining regional diversity 119
under this section, the following constitute the regions of the 120
state: 121

(1) The counties of Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, 122
Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, 123
Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot are one 124
region; 125

(2) The counties of Ashland, Ashtabula, Columbiana, 126
Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, 127
Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and 128
Wayne are one region; 129

(3) The counties of Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Clinton, 130
Darke, Fayette, Greene, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and 131

Shelby are one region; 132

(4) The counties of Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, 133
Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, and Union are 134
one region; 135

(5) The counties of Adams, Athens, Gallia, Highland, 136
Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and 137
Vinton are one region; 138

(6) The counties of Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, 139
Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, 140
Perry, and Washington are one region; 141

(7) The counties of Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and 142
Warren are one region. 143

(H) (1) The director shall do both of the following 144
regarding the operation of the program: 145

(a) Create an application to participate in the program 146
and an application for reimbursement; 147

(b) Create an internet web site with the applications for 148
and information regarding the program created in this section. 149

(2) The governor's office of workforce transformation 150
shall include on the office's internet web site either of the 151
following: 152

(a) The applications for and information regarding the 153
program created in this section; 154

(b) An internet link to the internet web site created 155
under division (H) (1) (b) of this section. 156

(I) The director may adopt rules in accordance with 157
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code regarding the operation of the 158

program as the director considers necessary to administer the 159
program, including establishing priority guidelines for 160
approving applications under division (D) of this section. 161

Sec. 122.1714. (A) As used in this section: 162

(1) "Credential" means an industry certification, 163
occupational license, registered apprenticeship certificate, 164
certificate of completion, postsecondary certificate, 165
microcredential, or other credential awarded on successful 166
completion of education or workforce training. 167

(2) "Credential of value" means a credential approved by 168
the director of development under this section that has 169
measurable economic value to both the individual earning the 170
credential and the workforce needs of this state. 171

(B) The director shall establish a list of approved 172
credentials of value in accordance with this section and publish 173
the list on the internet web site maintained by the department 174
of development. The director shall review the list at least once 175
every three years. The director may remove a credential from the 176
list if the director determines that it no longer meets the 177
criteria specified under division (C) of this section. 178

(C) The director shall not approve a credential for 179
inclusion in the list of credentials of value unless the 180
director determines that it meets all of the following criteria: 181

(1) The credential demonstrates a measurable return on 182
investment. 183

(2) The credential aligns with an in-demand occupation or 184
an occupation with a workforce shortage, as identified by the 185
the nonprofit corporation formed under section 187.01 of the 186
Revised Code, the department of job and family services, or 187

<u>another state agency designated by the director.</u>	188
<u>(3) The credential is recognized and valued by employers</u>	189
<u>within an industry sector.</u>	190
<u>(4) The credential is an industry-recognized</u>	191
<u>certification, occupational license, registered apprenticeship</u>	192
<u>completion certificate, or another credential that is broadly</u>	193
<u>accepted within a relevant industry.</u>	194
<u>(5) The credential furthers positive employment outcomes</u>	195
<u>for individuals who have earned it, including successful</u>	196
<u>placement in employment related to the credential or</u>	197
<u>occupational field.</u>	198
<u>(6) The credential furthers positive wage outcomes for</u>	199
<u>individuals who have earned it, including measurable earnings</u>	200
<u>gains or median wages that exceed those of similarly situated</u>	201
<u>individuals without the credential.</u>	202
<u>(7) The credential is stackable, allowing the credential</u>	203
<u>holder to continue progressing toward additional credentials,</u>	204
<u>certificates, licenses, apprenticeships, or academic degrees.</u>	205
<u>(8) The credential is portable across multiple employers</u>	206
<u>within an industry and does not limit the credential holder</u>	207
<u>solely to employment with a single employer or proprietary</u>	208
<u>training provider.</u>	209
<u>(9) The credential meets any additional criteria the</u>	210
<u>director has established in rules adopted under division (D) of</u>	211
<u>this section.</u>	212
<u>(D) The director may adopt rules in accordance with</u>	213
<u>Chapter 119. of the Revised Code establishing additional</u>	214
<u>criteria for approving a credential for inclusion in the list of</u>	215

<u>credentials of value, including criteria pertaining to any of</u>	216
<u>the following:</u>	217
<u>(1) Labor market demand;</u>	218
<u>(2) Regional workforce needs;</u>	219
<u>(3) Projected job growth;</u>	220
<u>(4) Credential completion rates;</u>	221
<u>(5) Employment retention;</u>	222
<u>(6) Employer satisfaction;</u>	223
<u>(7) Earnings progression over time;</u>	224
<u>(8) Cost effectiveness and return on taxpayer investment;</u>	225
<u>(9) Any additional performance measures the director</u>	226
<u>determines necessary for workforce investments to produce</u>	227
<u>meaningful economic outcomes.</u>	228
<u>(E) Not later than one hundred eighty days after the</u>	229
<u>effective date of this section, the director shall adopt rules</u>	230
<u>in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code establishing</u>	231
<u>all of the following:</u>	232
<u>(1) The methodology for determining whether a credential</u>	233
<u>qualifies as a credential of value;</u>	234
<u>(2) Measurable return-on-investment standards;</u>	235
<u>(3) Performance metrics used to evaluate credentials;</u>	236
<u>(4) The process for submitting credentials for review;</u>	237
<u>(5) The process for approving, denying, suspending, or</u>	238
<u>removing a credential of value;</u>	239
<u>(6) Procedures for the periodic review of credentials</u>	240

included in the list of credentials of value. 241

(F) The director shall use any available wage records, 242
workforce data, education data, unemployment compensation wage 243
records, or other reliable sources of information to evaluate 244
the performance of a credential being considered for inclusion 245
in the list of credentials of value. The director may enter into 246
a data sharing agreement with the head of any other state agency 247
as necessary to carry out this division. 248

(G) Beginning on the first day of August immediately 249
following the effective date of this section, and every August 250
first thereafter, the director annually shall publish on the 251
internet web site maintained by the department of development a 252
report that includes all of the following information: 253

(1) Each credential of value included in the list 254
established under this section; 255

(2) The industries and occupations served by each 256
credential of value; 257

(3) Employment and wage outcomes of individuals who have 258
earned a credential of value; 259

(4) Available labor market demand information; 260

(5) Any performance information the director determines is 261
relevant for informing students, employers, workforce providers, 262
and policymakers. 263

(H) Nothing in this section prohibits the director from 264
including in the list of credentials of value a credential that 265
exceeds the minimum criteria specified under division (C) of 266
this section, provided that the director determines the 267
credential demonstrates a measurable return on investment 268

consistent with the purposes of this section. 269

Sec. 4141.162. (A) The director of job and family services 270
shall establish an income and eligibility verification system 271
that complies with section 1137 of the "Social Security Act." 272
The programs included in the system are all of the following: 273

(1) Unemployment compensation pursuant to section 3304 of 274
the "Internal Revenue Code of 1954"; 275

(2) The state programs funded in part under part A of 276
Title IV of the "Social Security Act" and administered under 277
Chapters 5107. and 5108. of the Revised Code; 278

(3) The medicaid program; 279

(4) The supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant 280
to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); 281

(5) Any Ohio program under a plan approved under Title I, 282
X, XIV, or XVI of the "Social Security Act." 283

(B) Wage information provided by employers to the director 284
shall be furnished to the income and eligibility verification 285
system. Such information shall be used by the director to 286
determine eligibility of individuals for unemployment 287
compensation benefits and the amount of those benefits and used 288
by the agencies that administer the programs identified in 289
divisions (A) (2) to (5) of this section to determine or verify 290
eligibility for or the amount of benefits under those programs. 291

~~(C) The~~ (C) (1) Subject to division (C) (2) of this section, 292
the director shall, on request, disclose wage and claim 293
information to any either of the following: 294

(a) Any state or local agency administering a program 295
identified in division (A) of this section ~~that;~~ 296

(b) The director of development for purposes of 297
establishing a list of approved credentials of value under 298
section 122.1714 of the Revised Code. 299

(2) The director of job and family services shall not 300
disclose wage or claim information under division (C)(1) of this 301
section unless the state or local agency or director of 302
development has entered into a written data sharing agreement 303
with the director of job and family services that meets the 304
standards specified in federal law, including the requirements 305
in 20 C.F.R. 603.10. 306

(D) Information furnished under the system shall also be 307
made available to the appropriate state or local child support 308
enforcement agency for the purposes of an approved plan under 309
Title IV-D of the "Social Security Act" and to the appropriate 310
federal agency for the purposes of Titles II and XVI of the 311
"Social Security Act." 312

Section 2. That existing sections 122.178 and 4141.162 of 313
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 314