

HOUSE BILL 303

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

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This document may incorporate amendments proposed by a committee, but not yet adopted, as well as amendments that have been adopted during the current legislative session. The document is a tool to show amendments in context and cannot be used for the purpose of adding amendments to legislation.

AN ACT

RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES; CREATING A PILOT PROGRAM

H AFC → ~~USING FEDERAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES~~

~~BLOCK GRANT FUNDING~~ ← H AFC H AFC → **WITHIN THE HIGHER EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT** ← H AFC TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF

MONETARY STIPENDS TO NEW MEXICO RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; REQUIRING PARTICIPANTS TO BE ENROLLED IN CERTAIN WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS; PROVIDING FOR PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PROCESSES TO APPROVE WORKFORCE

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TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES OR FIELDS; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Higher Education Department Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in Sections 1 and 2 of this 2024 act:

A. "participant" means a New Mexico resident approved by the department to participate in the pilot program;

B. "pilot program" means the New Mexico workforce training economic support pilot program; and

C. "workforce training program" means a training or educational program HAFC→, ~~including an apprenticeship~~←HAFC or other work-based learning program accredited by a state institution of higher learning, that, upon successful completion by a participant, the participant will earn a certification, license or credential or will have acquired specialized qualifications or skills recognized within an industry or field as appropriate to obtain employment in that industry or field."

SECTION 2. A new section of the Higher Education Department Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] NEW MEXICO WORKFORCE TRAINING ECONOMIC SUPPORT PILOT PROGRAM--CREATED--ADMINISTRATION--ELIGIBILITY-- MONETARY STIPEND--RULES.--

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A. The "New Mexico workforce training economic support pilot program" is created within the department as a HAFC→~~five-year~~←HAFC HAFC→~~three-year~~←HAFC study. HAFC→**The department may use money appropriated to the department to pilot and evaluate the expansion of integrated basic education and skills training programs.**←HAFC The purpose of the pilot program is to:

(1) demonstrate that the state can measurably increase access to living wage jobs, thereby meeting the state's needs for jobs in high-demand industries and fields and reducing poverty, increasing financial stability and lowering dependence on government services for participants by providing ongoing economic support through monetary stipends during the period in which those participants are enrolled in and attending certain department-approved workforce training programs;

(2) develop and implement eligibility criteria for New Mexico residents to participate in the pilot program. Criteria for consideration should include current income, education and employment status of applicants to the pilot program, and eligibility criteria shall not restrict participants based on immigration status;

(3) develop and administer an economic support program to provide participants with ongoing monetary stipends to enable the participants to acquire training and skills

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necessary to obtain employment, earn a living wage and, in the process of acquiring that training, to prevent income, housing and food insecurity. The stipends provided pursuant to this paragraph should cover the costs associated with basic living needs, including housing, food and transportation, and the costs associated with enrolling in and attending a workforce training program; and

(4) identify and approve workforce training programs in the following priority industries or fields:

- (a) health care, including behavioral health;
- (b) early childhood education or care;
- (c) natural resources management;
- (d) renewable energy;
- (e) broadband expansion;
- (f) first responders;
- (g) construction industries;
- (h) aerospace;
- (i) biosciences;
- (j) cybersecurity;
- (k) film and television;
- (l) outdoor recreation;
- (m) sustainable agriculture;
- (n) intelligent manufacturing; and
- (o) global trade.

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B. The department shall develop, implement and administer the pilot program created in Subsection A of this section and may HAFC→receive technical assistance from the health care authority department and may←HAFC collaborate with other state agencies, members of the business community, worker organizations, including trade unions, appropriate nonprofit organizations and community organizations, as deemed appropriate. In developing the pilot program, the department shall:

- (1) determine eligibility requirements for applicants wishing to participate in the pilot program; provided that eligibility shall require New Mexico residency but shall not be restricted based on immigration status;
- (2) determine processes, procedures and forms required for application to participate in the pilot program;
- (3) determine processes and criteria for approval of workforce training programs and for ongoing reviews of those programs;

Hf11→~~(4) determine processes and procedures, including internal controls, interagency agreements or other requirements, that may be necessary to use federal temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds to provide monetary stipends to participants;~~←Hf11

Hf11→~~(5)~~←Hf11 Hf11→(4)←Hf11 no later than HAFC→~~October 1, 2024~~←HAFC HAFC→April 1, 2025←HAFC , determine

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and recommend to the legislative Hf12→~~education study~~←Hf12  
Hf12→**finance**←Hf12 committee participant eligibility  
requirements and appropriate dollar amounts for monetary  
stipends depending on factors, including a participant's  
selected industry or field workforce training program, income  
and education levels and any other relevant factors deemed  
appropriate by the department Hf11→; **provided that a monetary  
stipend shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per  
month for up to twelve months**←Hf11 ; HAFC→~~and~~←HAFC

Hf11→~~(6)~~←Hf11 Hf11→**(5)**←Hf11 no later than  
HAFC→~~December 1, 2024~~←HAFC HAFC→**April 1, 2025**←HAFC ,  
promulgate and adopt rules for the administration of the pilot  
program Hf12→~~HAFC→.~~←HAFC←Hf12 Hf12→~~HAFC→, and~~←Hf12

Hf12→~~Hf11→(7)←Hf11~~ Hf12→~~Hf11→(6)←Hf11~~ by  
~~December 1, 2025 and by December 1 of each subsequent calendar  
year and in consultation with the health care authority  
department and any other appropriate state agency, provide a  
report to the legislative education study committee assessing  
the impact and outcomes of the pilot program and providing  
department recommendations.~~←HAFC←Hf12 Hf12→**"**←Hf12 Hf12→; **and**

**(7) by December 1, 2025 and by December 1 of  
each subsequent calendar year, and in consultation with the  
health care authority department and any other appropriate  
state agency, provide a report to the legislative finance  
committee assessing the impact and outcomes of the pilot**

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program and providing department recommendations."←Hf12

H AFC → SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION. -- One million dollars  
(\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the federal temporary  
assistance for needy families block grant account to the higher  
education department for expenditure in fiscal years 2025  
through 2029 to develop and administer the New Mexico workforce  
training economic support pilot program and to hire one full-  
time-equivalent position to administer the program. Any  
unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
fiscal year 2029 shall revert to the federal temporary  
assistance for needy families block grant account. ← H AFC

SECTION H AFC → 4. ← H AFC H AFC → 3. ← H AFC EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The  
effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.