

978561743

SENATE BILL NO. 873

Offered January 14, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.1-25.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Targeted Grants Program.

Patrons—Stosch and Wampler; Delegate: Cantor

Referred to the Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 63.1-25.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 63.1-25.3. Virginia Targeted Jobs Grant Program.

A. The State Board of Social Services shall implement a grant program to provide assistance to employers who hire "qualified employees," as hereinafter defined, in taxable years 1994, 1995, and 1996 through taxable year 2000, subject to the terms and conditions of this section and the regulations of the State Board. The State Board shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act within 280 days of the enactment of this act.

B. For purposes of this section, a "qualified employee" is a Virginia resident who at the time of hiring is a recipient of "aid to families with dependent children" and has been a recipient of AFDC for nine consecutive months and has been placed with the employer as a result of the Department of Social Services' Employment Services Program as is evidenced by a certification and voucher furnished by the Department.

In order to receive a grant hereunder, the employer shall document and keep records that the employee satisfied the above conditions at the time of hiring.

C. Any person who is hired under this program (i) shall not have been an employee of the employer claiming the grant for at least one year prior to the date of hiring; (ii) shall not be a relative of any owner of the employer claiming the grant ("relative" shall be defined as a spouse, child, grandchild, parent or sibling of an owner or employer, and "owner" shall be defined, in the case of a corporation, as any person who owns five percent or more of the corporation's stock); (iii) shall not own, directly or indirectly, more than fifty percent in value of the outstanding stock of a corporation claiming the grant; and (iv) shall have worked for the employer for at least 1,000 hours of the taxable year for which the employer is claiming the grant at a rate of pay which is at least the minimum wage. All employees of employers that are members of a controlled group shall be treated as employees of a single employer for purposes of this grant program.

D.1. Employers who hire such qualified employees shall be entitled to receive an annual Virginia targeted jobs grant in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for each qualified employee hired in the taxable year for which the grant is claimed. The grants shall be paid from a fund to be entitled the "Virginia Targeted Jobs Grant Fund," to the extent the general appropriation act makes provision for such Fund, and shall be administered by the Commissioner of Social Services.

2. Employers entitled to claim or apply for a grant pursuant to this section shall provide evidence, satisfactory to the Commissioner, of hiring such qualified employees in the taxable year for which the grant is claimed. No grant shall be paid prior to July 1, 1996. Applications claiming such grants shall be filed no later than the last day of the third month following the close of the taxable year for which the grants are claimed. Failure to meet the filing deadline shall render the applicant ineligible to receive a grant. The postmark cancellation shall govern the date of the filing determination unless the Commissioner has approved an alternative means of filing.

E. The Commissioner shall certify to the Comptroller the amount of grant an employer is eligible to receive, and payments shall be paid by check issued by the Treasurer of Virginia on warrant of the Comptroller.

F. The Commissioner, upon presenting appropriate credentials, may examine the records, books, and other applicable documents to determine whether the employer has satisfied the requirements for grants as set forth in this section.

INTRODUCED

SB873