

SB 44 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/11/2021 0783s

2021 SESSION

21-0990

04/05

SENATE BILL **44**

AN ACT establishing the New Hampshire workforce pathway program.

SPONSORS: Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Rep. Ladd, Graf. 4; Rep. Myler, Merr. 10; Rep. Luneau, Merr. 10

COMMITTEE: Commerce

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a workforce pathway program in the community college system of New Hampshire.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT establishing the New Hampshire workforce pathway program.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 New Subdivision; Workforce Pathway Program. Amend RSA 188-F by inserting after section  
2 69 the following new subdivision:

3 Workforce Pathway Program

4 188-F:70 Definitions. In this subdivision:

5 I. "High demand workforce credential" means a credential that is:

6 (a) Necessary for performing functions of an occupation based on standards developed or  
7 endorsed by employers and/or the office of professional licensure and certification.

8 (b) Portable and recognized by multiple employers, educational institutions, and across  
9 geographic areas where appropriate.

10 (c) Competency-based.

11 (d) Convertable, valid, and relevant in the workplace, and able to be continuously  
12 updated to workplace needs.

13 (e) Reviewed for articulated credit into postsecondary degree programs.

14 (f) Part of a career pathways framework and lead to an industry-recognized credential or  
15 a postsecondary degree.

16 II. "Workforce training certificate provider" means the community college system of New  
17 Hampshire, career and technical education centers, and apprenticeship programs including those  
18 recognized by the United States Department of Labor.

19 III. "Workforce training program" means programs that are credit, noncredit, or convertible  
20 into credit through competency-based equivalency, which lead to certificate completion in not more  
21 than 6 months.

22 IV. "Job-entry position" means a position requiring a high school graduation and/or a  
23 certificate of completion of post-high school education.

24 V. "Job-ready credential" means a credential that, through education, provides a basis for  
25 future experience and education necessary for attaining higher skills, higher salaries, and increased  
26 mobility.

27 188-F:71 Workforce Pathway Program Established.

28 I. There is hereby established the workforce pathway program which shall be administered  
29 by the community college system of New Hampshire. The purpose of the workforce pathway  
30 program is to advance the skills and placement of unemployed and underemployed New Hampshire  
31 adults into high demand, job-entry positions by providing job-ready credentials through a certificate

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1 program, offered by a workforce training certificate provider, lasting no more than 6 months and at  
2 no cost to participants. The workforce pathway program shall use existing mechanisms to fill jobs in  
3 designated workforce sector priority areas, and use resources from federal Workforce Opportunity  
4 Investment Act allocated to the state, employment security job training funds under RSA 282-A:182,  
5 and community college system of New Hampshire's financial aid programs, that include qualifying  
6 students for federal Pell Awards.

7 II.(a) The workforce pathway program shall provide training to furloughed, laid off,  
8 dislocated, underserved, or other populations affected by COVID-19 to fill employment gaps in the  
9 state and develop short-term pre-employment training and short-term early employment training for  
10 student and workforce participants that meet the needs of businesses creating jobs and economic  
11 growth in the state.

12 (b) The community college system of New Hampshire, in partnership with the  
13 department of employment security, shall identify students who qualify under this subdivision.

14 III. The workforce pathway program shall:

15 (a) Partner with the department of employment security, department of economic  
16 affairs' director of workforce development, and career and technical education centers.

17 (b) Partner with businesses that have significant hiring demands for job-entry  
18 occupations in the state.

19 (c) Coordinate with the department of employment security, education agencies and  
20 providers, and employers to create effective recruitment initiatives to attract student and workforce  
21 participants and business participants to the program.

22 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.