

WHEREAS, The increased job related skills of parents can also serve to encourage their children to perform better in school, thereby helping to break the cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, Numerous employers in Maryland are currently suffering shortages of skilled workers which inhibits the economic growth of the State and the increased skills-based training of individuals will contribute to both the economic development and prosperity in the State; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

SUBTITLE 4. SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION (STEP) PILOT PROGRAM.

18-401.

IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION (STEP) PILOT PROGRAM:

(1) ENABLE LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN TO PURSUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTED AT ATTAINMENT OF IDENTIFIED SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS;

(2) ASSIST LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN IN MOVING TOWARD LONG-TERM SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITH SKILLS-BASED TRAINING THAT WILL:

(I) LEAD TO JOBS WITH FAMILY SUSTAINING WAGES INCLUDING HEALTH CARE AND OTHER BENEFITS;

(II) PROVIDE ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL CAREER LADDERS FOR CONTINUED JOB ADVANCEMENT; AND

(III) ELIMINATE FUTURE NEEDS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;

(3) CREATE SKILLED EMPLOYEES THAT ARE QUALIFIED FOR EMPLOYMENT IN AN AREA OF STATE OR LOCAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGE; AND

(4) COORDINATE WITH AND NOT DUPLICATE EXISTING STATE PROGRAMS.

18-402.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "BOARD" MEANS THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.