

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE DRS55278-LR-133\* (5/10)**

Short Title: Trade Jobs for Success/Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Hartsell and Dalton.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TRADE JOBS FOR SUCCESS INITIATIVE TO  
2 STIMULATE JOB GROWTH AND HIRING IN NORTH CAROLINA AND  
3 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
7 Department of Commerce the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars  
8 (\$1,500,000) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year for the Trade Jobs for Success initiative  
9 established by this act.

10 **SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
11 Community Colleges System Office the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars  
12 (\$750,000) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year to help fund participation of local community  
13 colleges in the Trade Jobs for Success initiative.

14 **SECTION 1.(c)** Prior to the granting of a waiver by the U.S. Department of  
15 Labor, the funds appropriated in subsection (a) of this section shall be used to start-up  
16 the initiative. It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate additional State  
17 funds for the initiative in the 2005-2006 fiscal year as may be necessary to supplement  
18 federal funds and to further stimulate job growth and hiring in the State.

19 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the  
20 Employment Security Commission and the North Carolina Community College System  
21 shall begin implementation of the Trade Jobs for Success initiative in the counties  
22 hardest hit by trade impacted job losses and the resulting decline of traditional North  
23 Carolina industries including the textile, clothing, and furniture industries and other  
24 manufacturing operations. Counties having an unemployment rate of eight percent (8%)  
25 or more shall receive priority consideration.

26 **SECTION 3.** The Employment Security Commission shall take all actions  
27 practicable to obtain from the U.S. Department of Labor as quickly as possible a waiver

1 under the Trade Adjustment Act to allow the Trade Jobs for Success initiative to (i)  
2 serve persons regardless of their age, (ii) use unemployment funds to provide direct  
3 monetary incentives to participating employers and direct income to eligible workers in  
4 the retraining program, and (iii) use funds for in-State relocation assistance. Waivers  
5 shall be sought for other program components, as appropriate.

6 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Commerce shall seek, and may receive,  
7 private grants and federal funds for the Trade Jobs for Success initiative.

8 **SECTION 5.** Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended  
9 by adding a new Part to read:

10 "Part 3C. Trade Jobs For Success.

11 **"§ 143B-438.15. Legislative findings and purpose.**

12 (a) The General Assembly finds that State, national, and global economic  
13 conditions and the passage of international trade agreements have impacted the State  
14 workforce adversely and resulted in significant losses in the availability of jobs in  
15 manufacturing and the State's other traditional industries. Further, the General  
16 Assembly finds that business and plant closings, the weakened State economy, and  
17 lengthening periods of unemployment have taken a toll on communities across the  
18 State. It is prudent to address the loss of jobs by establishing a statewide initiative to  
19 create more jobs for our citizens.

20 (b) It is the policy of this State to stimulate job growth and hiring by investing in  
21 the effective retraining of trade-affected displaced workers while partnering with private  
22 business to help those citizens learn new skills for new jobs through on-the-job training  
23 and educational assistance.

24 (c) The purpose of this Part is to establish the Trade Jobs for Success initiative to  
25 stimulate job growth and hiring in the State and to assist displaced workers affected by  
26 trade-impact business closings. The aim of the Trade Jobs for Success initiative shall be  
27 to partner with private business to move displaced workers into new jobs while allowing  
28 for a dignified transition from unemployment back to employment.

29 **"§ 143B-438.16. Trade Jobs for Success initiative established; funds; program**  
30 **components and guidelines.**

31 (a) There is established within the Department of Commerce the Trade Jobs for  
32 Success (TJS) initiative. The Department of Commerce shall lead the TJS initiative in  
33 cooperation with the Employment Security Commission and the Community Colleges  
34 System Office.

35 (b) There is created in the Department of Commerce a special, nonreverting fund  
36 called the Trade Jobs for Success Fund (Fund). The Fund shall be used to implement the  
37 TJS initiative. The Department of Commerce shall develop guidelines for  
38 administration of the TJS initiative and the Fund. An advisory council shall assist the  
39 Secretary of Commerce in the administration of the Fund. The members of the advisory  
40 council shall include:

41 (1) The Chairman of the Employment Security Commission or that  
42 officer's designee.

43 (2) The President of the Community Colleges System or that officer's  
44 designee.

- 1           (3)    The state Auditor or that officer's designee.  
2           (4)    A representative of a statewide association to further the interests of  
3                business and industry in North Carolina designated by the Secretary of  
4                Commerce.  
5       (c)    At a minimum, the Trade Jobs for Success initiative shall include the  
6       following programmatic components:  
7           (1)    Displaced workers participating in the TJS initiative shall receive (i)  
8                on-the-job training to learn new job skills and (ii) educational  
9                assistance or remedial education specifically designed to help  
10              displaced workers qualify for new jobs.  
11          (2)    Displaced workers participating in the TJS initiative shall not lose their  
12              eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits while they are in the  
13              program and may receive wage supplements, as appropriate.  
14          (3)    In-State relocation assistance, in appropriate instances, where  
15              participating individuals must relocate to work for participating  
16              employers.  
17          (4)    Mentoring, both on and off the job, shall be provided to participants in  
18              a dignified manner through telephone assistance and other appropriate  
19              means.  
20          (5)    Financial assistance and other incentives may be provided to  
21              participating employers who provide jobs to participating displaced  
22              workers to help defray the costs of providing the on-the-job training  
23              opportunities.  
24          (6)    Work provided by participating employers as part of the TJS initiative  
25              must be full-time employment. Wages paid shall not be less than the  
26              hourly entry-level wage normally paid by the employer.  
27          (7)    Staff of the Employment Security Commission, in conjunction with  
28              staff of the Department of Commerce, shall match participating  
29              displaced workers to the most suitable employer.  
30          (8)    Local Employment Security Commission offices and community  
31              colleges shall enter into partnership agreements with local chambers of  
32              commerce, and other appropriate organizations, that would encourage  
33              employer participation in the TJS initiative.  
34          (9)    Tracking of participating individuals and businesses by the  
35              Department of Commerce and the Employment Security Commission  
36              to assure program integrity and effectiveness and the compilation of  
37              data to generate the reports necessary to evaluate the success of the  
38              TJS initiative.  
39          (10)   Coordination and integration of existing programs in the Department  
40              of Commerce, the Employment Security Commission, and the North  
41              Carolina Community College System in a manner that maximizes the  
42              flexibility of these agencies to effectively assist participating  
43              individuals and businesses.

44    "**§ 143B-438.17. Reporting.**"

1        The Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Employment Security  
2 Commission and the Community Colleges System Office, shall publish a quarterly  
3 report on the Trade Jobs for Success initiative. The report shall provide information on  
4 the commitment, disbursement, and use of funds and the status of any grant proposals or  
5 wavers requested on behalf of the Trade Jobs for Success initiative. The report shall  
6 also include legislative proposals and recommendations regarding statutory changes  
7 needed to maximize the effectiveness and flexibility of the TJS initiative. Copies of the  
8 report shall be provided to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental  
9 Operations, to the chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations  
10 Committee, and to the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly."

11                **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.