



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 251

February Session, 2022

Senate Bill No. 407

Senate, March 31, 2022

The Committee on Commerce reported through SEN. HARTLEY of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A POST-COVID-19 WOMEN'S RETURN TO WORK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) Not later than January 1,
2 2023, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in
3 consultation with the Office of Workforce Strategy and regional
4 workforce development boards, shall develop and implement a Post-
5 COVID-19 Women's Return to Work Economic Development Plan,
6 which shall include, but need not be limited to, the establishment of (1)
7 partnerships with institutions of higher education, nonprofit
8 organizations, professional business associations and child care and
9 transit providers to develop and promote return to work initiatives,
10 paid internships in high-growth industries, job and career fairs,
11 professional mentorships, experiential learning opportunities and
12 educational and employment coaching services for women seeking to
13 return to work after the COVID-19 pandemic; and (2) business
14 incentives to increase apprenticeship and internship opportunities for

15 women. For the purposes of this section, "COVID-19" means the
16 respiratory disease designated by the World Health Organization on
17 February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related mutation thereof
18 recognized by the World Health Organization as a communicable
19 respiratory disease.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	New section

CE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), in consultation with the Office of Workforce Strategy and regional workforce development boards, to develop and implement by January 1, 2023, an economic development plan for women seeking to return to work after the COVID-19 pandemic. The costs to the state are enumerated below:

- **Development of the plan.** DECD would need a third-party consultant at a cost of \$175,000 in FY 23 to meet the deadline of January 1, 2023 outlined in the bill. The cost may be partially mitigated to the extent that existing work groups such as the [Governor's Council on Women and Girls](#) or other relevant organizations can assist with developing the plan.
- **Implementation.** There is also a cost to the state to implement the plan which would be contingent upon the specifics adopted in the plan. To note, the bill requires the plan to include business incentives to increase apprenticeship and internship opportunities for women but does not identify a

program or funding source for those incentives.

The Out Years

The cost to develop the plan is one-time only in FY 23. The cost of implementation will continue as required to meet the objectives of the plan.

Source: Department of Economic and Community Development

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 407****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A POST-COVID-19 WOMEN'S RETURN TO WORK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN.****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner, in consultation with the Office of Workforce Strategy and regional workforce development boards, to develop and implement by January 1, 2023, an economic development plan for women seeking to return to work after the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan must, at a minimum, establish the following:

1. business incentives to increase apprenticeship and internship opportunities for women and
2. partnerships with certain entities to develop and promote return to work initiatives, paid internships in high-growth industries, job and career fairs, professional mentorships, experiential learning opportunities, and educational and employment coaching services.

The plan's partnerships must include higher education institutions, nonprofits, professional business associations, child care providers, and transit providers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/22/2022)