

FEB 21 2001

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSE FILE 330
BY JENKINS

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a continuous improvement program for
2 community colleges.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 330

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 15.301 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
2 PROGRAM.

3 1. The department shall establish and administer a
4 continuous improvement program designed to provide
5 representatives of community colleges with the opportunity to
6 conduct benchmark investigations in an effort to seek out,
7 analyze, and consider incorporating the general practices of
8 other community colleges or similar type organizations. The
9 general practices that benchmarking teams under the program
10 shall seek out and analyze include, but are not limited to,
11 the following:

12 a. Methods of cooperating and working with the business
13 community.

14 b. Methods of keeping instructors updated and trained
15 regarding current technology.

16 c. Methods of teaching scarce skills to students.

17 d. Methods of attracting students into training programs
18 for scarce skills.

19 2. The department shall identify specific criteria to be
20 used by benchmarking teams during investigations.

21 3. The department of economic development shall identify
22 scarce skill areas. For purposes of this section, unless the
23 context otherwise requires, a "scarce skill" means a workforce
24 labor skill which is currently in high demand and short supply
25 in the state.

26 4. Benchmarking teams shall be designated by the
27 department and shall consist of not more than five members.
28 The department shall not designate more than five benchmarking
29 teams during one fiscal year and a benchmarking team shall not
30 visit more than one organization. At least four members of a
31 team shall be either instructors or administrators at a
32 community college. Any instructor designated to participate
33 on a team shall be actively involved in the instruction of
34 skills in a scarce skill area. None of the participants on a
35 team shall be from the same community college.

1 5. a. The department shall identify and contact
2 organizations to be investigated by a benchmarking team. The
3 department shall enter into an agreement with the identified
4 organization for purposes of allowing a benchmarking team to
5 visit the organization. After an agreement is finalized with
6 the organization, the department shall designate a
7 benchmarking team.

8 b. During a fiscal year, only one organization located in
9 this state shall be identified and at least one organization
10 located outside of the United States shall be identified.

11 c. An identified organization may include other community
12 colleges or similar vocational institutions, universities,
13 businesses, training organizations, or similar publicly or
14 privately sponsored skills training entities. Identified
15 organizations shall meet one of the following criteria:

16 (1) The organization teaches or trains people the same or
17 similar skill that is in an identified scarce skill area.

18 (2) The organization trains and provides instructors for
19 teaching or training institutions.

20 (3) The organization has processes or techniques that
21 would benefit the community colleges training students in a
22 scarce skill.

23 6. Public and private moneys and any moneys appropriated
24 by the general assembly may be used for financial support for
25 expenses of benchmarking teams.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill establishes a continuous improvement program
28 established and administered by the department of economic
29 development. The bill provides that the program shall be
30 designed to provide representatives of community colleges with
31 the opportunity to conduct benchmark investigations in an
32 effort to seek out, analyze, and consider incorporating the
33 general practices of other community colleges or similar type
34 organizations.

35 The bill provides that the department shall identify

1 specific criteria to be used by benchmarking teams during
2 investigations.

3 The bill provides that the department shall identify scarce
4 skills which are a workforce labor skill currently in high
5 demand and short supply in the state.

6 The bill provides that benchmarking teams shall be
7 designated by the department and shall consist of not more
8 than five members. The bill provides that the department
9 shall not designate more than five benchmarking teams during
10 one fiscal year and a benchmarking team shall not visit more
11 than one organization.

12 The bill provides that the department shall identify and
13 contact organizations to be investigated by a benchmarking
14 team. The bill provides that subsequent to entering into an
15 agreement with an identified organization, the department
16 shall designate a benchmarking team. The bill provides that
17 during a fiscal year, only one identified organization shall
18 be located in this state and at least one identified
19 organization shall be located outside of the United States.
20 The bill provides that identified organizations must teach or
21 train people the same or similar skill that is an identified
22 scarce skill, train and provide instructors for teaching or
23 training institutions, or have processes or techniques that
24 would benefit the community colleges training students in a
25 scarce skill.

26 The bill provides that public and private moneys and any
27 moneys appropriated by the general assembly may be used for
28 financial support for expenses of benchmarking teams.

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