An act to add Division 8 (commencing with Section 15000) to the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to job training.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST


Existing law contains various programs for job training and employment investment.

This bill would set forth legislative findings and declarations relating to the state’s green economy and the increasing demand for a highly skilled and well-trained green collar workforce, and would enact the California Green Collar Jobs Act of 2008 requiring the Secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Workforce Investment Board to establish the Green Collar Jobs Council that shall, in consultation with representatives from various public and private groups, to develop a comprehensive array of programs, strategies, and resources to address the workforce needs that accompany California’s growing green economy and to establish, among other programs, green job training programs for eligible individuals, as provided.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Division 8 (commencing with Section 15000) is added to the Unemployment Insurance Code, to read:

DIVISION 8. CALIFORNIA GREEN COLLAR JOBS ACT OF 2008

15000. This division shall be known, and may be cited, as the California Green Collar Jobs Act of 2008.
15001. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
(1) The State of California has long been a national and international leader on environmental, natural resource, pollution prevention, and energy policy, as well as most recently, landmark laws on issues, as well as recent landmark laws in the areas of climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and alternative transportation fuels.
(2) These laws have resulted in billions of dollars of investment capital flowing into the State of California for research, development, and commercialization of new green and clean technologies. This vast amount of investment of capital is indicative of the rapidly growing clean and green technology sector of the California economy.
(3) As the green economy grows, there is an increased demand for, and recognition of, the need it will be accompanied by an increased demand for a highly skilled and well-trained “green collar” workforce.
(4) It is critically important for the State of California to act promptly to build and expand the necessary partnerships and programs as well as identify the resources necessary to meet our statewide green collar workforce needs. Such an effort must involve our kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and higher education systems, labor unions, environmental community, workforce development programs, nongovernmental organizations, and private sector industries.
(b) With more and more California businesses dedicated to researching, developing, and commercializing clean and green technologies in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency,
greenhouse gas emission reduction, and alternative transportation fuels, there will be an increasing demand for a well-trained, highly skilled workforce to perform the jobs created by California’s continued ingenuity, leadership, and innovation in the green economy sector.

(c) In order to meet most effectively the workforce needs that face California’s emerging green economy, the state must create a partnership of public and private organizations tasked with coordinating our statewide workforce training and development efforts.

15002. (a) The Secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, in consultation with representatives from the Community College Chancellor’s Office, University of California Board of Regents, State Department of Education, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Veterans Affairs, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Environmental Protection Agency, as well as energy, alternative fuels, consumer, financial, labor, environmental justice, and other groups, shall develop a comprehensive array of programs, strategies, and resources to address the workforce needs that accompany California’s growing green economy.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that this working group be known as the Green Collar Jobs Council (GCJC), an intergovernmental partnership.

(4) California state government must act promptly to build the partnerships, expand the programs, and secure the resources necessary to meet our green workforce needs. This effort must involve both our K-12 and higher education systems, labor unions, the environmental community, workforce development programs, nongovernmental organizations, philanthropy, and private sector industries.

15002. (a) The California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) shall establish a special committee known as the Green Collar Jobs Council (GCJC), comprised of the appropriate representatives from its existing board ranks, to develop a strategic initiative in the green workforce development arena. The GCJC shall consult with other entities including, but not limited to, philanthropic groups, nongovernmental organizations, and environmental groups, in the development of this strategic initiative.

(c) The GCJC shall
(b) As part of the strategic initiative the GCJC shall identify and develop the framework, funding, strategies, programs, partnerships, and opportunities necessary to address the growing need for a highly skilled and well-trained workforce to meet the needs of California’s emerging green economy. The council GCJC shall do all of the following:

1. Assist in identifying and linking green collar job opportunities with workforce development training opportunities in the various CWIB regions of the state.

2. Create public, private, philanthropic, and nongovernmental partnerships to build and expand the state’s workforce development programs, network, and infrastructure.

3. Establish job training programs in the clean and green technology sectors to assist and prepare specific populations, such as at-risk youth, displaced workers, veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, and others facing barriers to employment.

4. Develop statewide and regional labor market data on California’s new and emerging green industries workforce needs, trends, and job growth.

5. Identify funding resources and make recommendations on how to expand and leverage these funds.

6. Foster regional collaboratives in the green economic sector.

15003. On or before April 1, 2009, and each April 1 yearly thereafter, the CWIB shall report to the Legislature on the status of GCJC activities and its development of a green workforce strategic initiative.