



MARYLAND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT RIGHT NOW PROGRAM ("EARN")

HOUSE BILL 227/ SENATE BILL 278

INITIATIVE SUMMARY

MARCH 13, 2013

BACKGROUND

House Bill 227 (HB 227) and Senate Bill 278 (SB 278) form the Maryland Employment Advancement Right Now ("**EARN**") program. The Bill is sponsored by Governor O'Malley, Senators Klausmeier, Miller, Currie, DeGrange, Ferguson, Forehand, Garagiola, King, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Middleton, Montgomery, Peters, Ramirez, Robery and Young.

The purpose of the EARN legislation is to identify industrial sectors with significant job growth, create industry-led partnerships to determine the needed skills, and institute training programs to teach these skills to the state's workforce, in order to grow the state's economy, and increase sustainable employment for working families. This will bolster the economic competitiveness of Maryland businesses and increase productivity and profitability.

EARN is distinct from other Skills2Compete initiatives because it will target harder-to-serve, lower-income individuals with the goal of providing them with the specific skills needed by Maryland's employers. EARN's biggest innovation is to mandate industry-led, collaborative training strategies in sectors of the economy where data-identified skills gaps are inhibiting economic growth. The O'Malley-Brown Administration dedicated \$2.5 million of its FY14 budget to launch the EARN program. EARN is a sector-based strategy initiative that is the result of a true collaboration between the Legislative and Executive Branches, as well as members of Maryland's nonprofit community and, of course, industry.

The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, together with the Department of Business and Economic Development and the Governor's Workforce Investment Board, shall establish and administer the Maryland EARN program to provide grants on a competitive basis for:

- An approved strategic industry partnership for development of a plan consistent with the purpose of the Maryland EARN program;

- Workforce training programs and other qualified programs that provide industry valued skills training to individuals that result in a credential or identifiable skill consistent with an approved strategic industry partnership plan;
- Job readiness training and skills training that result in a credential or an identifiable skill.

With EARN, we are in a position to target our resources in a manner that will ensure that Marylanders obtain the Skills2Compete not only for intrastate commerce, but also for the national and global economies. This program allocates highly targeted workforce development resources to leverage economic development goals.

Status: This bill has been passed in the House: Second Reading completed, March 8, 2013. Next: Earn is up for 3rd reader week of March 11, 2013.