



1 monetary incentives to participating employers and direct income to eligible workers in  
2 the retraining program, and (iii) use funds for in-State relocation assistance. Waivers  
3 shall be sought for other program components, as appropriate.

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

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

8 "Part 3C. Trade Jobs For Success.

9 **"§ 143B-438.15. Legislative findings and purpose.**

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

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

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

27 **"§ 143B-438.16. Trade Jobs for Success initiative established; funds; program**  
28 **components and guidelines.**

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

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

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

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

43 (3) The state Auditor or that officer's designee.

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

43 **§ 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.