

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1848

Short Title: At-Risk Worker Pilot Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pierce, Sutton, Yongue (Primary Sponsors); Cotham and Faison.

Referred to: Ways and Means.

April 19, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO DEVELOP AN AT-RISK WORKER PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST
3 WORKERS IN IMPROVING SKILLS BEFORE AN ADVERSE EMPLOYMENT
4 EVENT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Commerce, in coordination with the
7 Community Colleges System Office, shall develop a pilot program in Hoke, Robeson,
8 and Scotland Counties to provide necessary basic skills to at-risk workers in endangered
9 industries. The purpose of the program is to ensure that low-skilled or unskilled
10 workers are capable of completing educational or vocational training in the event of an
11 adverse employment event. In developing the pilot program, the Department shall do
12 the following:

- 13 (1) Identify a suitable industry around which to develop a pilot program.
14 A suitable industry is one which employs a high percentage of
15 low-skilled or unskilled workers and which has seen a decline in the
16 number of people employed in this State over the last decade due to
17 increased foreign competition in that industry.
- 18 (2) Design a program to teach basic skills to low-skilled or unskilled
19 workers. For the purposes of this section, "basic skills" are those skills
20 needed in order to pursue further educational or vocational training
21 and include such things as basic educational skills like writing, reading
22 comprehension, and basic math. The term also includes other skills
23 necessary for success in a training environment such as time
24 management.

25 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
26 Department of Commerce the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for
27 each year of the 2007-2009 fiscal biennium to design and implement the pilot project
28 described in Section 1 of this act.

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SECTION 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.