

For the current fiscal year (FY02), the agency reports 10 projects constituting 875 jobs with an average wage of \$8.29 per hour. This breaks down to an average wage of \$17.12 per hour in urban areas (38 jobs) and \$7.89 per hour in rural areas (837 jobs).

Of the active projects, 19 contracts have reached the established end date, which is one year after the original contract date. These 19 projects have an unexpended balance of \$3,217.1; however the agency only reports \$1,832.8 of available funds remaining unobligated as of January 2002. Although the policies of the program state that the reimbursement is limited to 1040 hours, or six months, of training, these projects have been ongoing for well over one year. In total (41 projects), \$11,980.1 out of \$18,944.8, or 63.2 percent, of active contract funding remains unexpended.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$15,000.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund. The appropriation contains an emergency clause.

DUPLICATION/RELATIONSHIP

As introduced, House Bill 2 and Senate Bill 1 contain \$2,000.0 within the Economic Development Department's operating budget for the In-Plant Training Program to be transferred from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to reimburse employers' training of individuals from working families. In addition, House Bill 2 and Senate Bill 1 contain \$6,000.0 in a special appropriation from the general fund for In-Plant Training.

Senate Bill 142 duplicates House Bill 7.

MW/ar