

HOUSE BILL No. 5992

October 19, 2016, Introduced by Rep. Driskell and referred to the Committee on Financial Services.

A bill to establish and provide for the operation of a program of joint employee-employer lifelong learning accounts; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities; and to authorize the promulgation of rules.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "lifelong learning account act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Agency" means the Michigan talent investment agency.

5 (b) "Department" means the department of talent and economic
6 development.

7 (c) "Financial institution" includes any federally chartered
8 or state chartered bank, savings bank, savings and loan

1 association, or credit union.

2 (d) "Lifelong learning account" means a joint savings account
3 that is established by an employee and his or her employer to
4 support the employee's education and training and that is aligned
5 with the employee's approved career development plan.

6 (e) "Michigan works system" means the integrated system
7 created in the Michigan works one-stop service center system act,
8 2006 PA 491, MCL 408.111 to 408.135.

9 (f) "Program" means the lifelong learning account program
10 established under section 3.

11 Sec. 3. A lifelong learning account program is established
12 within the department to provide an opportunity for employees, with
13 the support of their employers, to create educational savings
14 accounts to be used to fund approved education and training. The
15 agency shall implement and operate the program.

16 Sec. 4. In implementing and operating the program, the agency
17 shall consult with any partners under section 5 to do all of the
18 following:

19 (a) Establish policies, rules, and procedures that support the
20 operation of the program, including, but not limited to, standards
21 for fund management and for program managers to approve career
22 development plans and education and training. Career development
23 plan standards shall ensure that the plans include information
24 necessary to determine whether expenditures are aligned with
25 program criteria. Education and training standards shall ensure
26 that expenditures are aligned with an approved career development
27 plan and eligible for funding through a lifelong learning account.

1 (b) Ensure that the program is marketed to various geographic
2 areas and industry sectors of this state, as well as to low-wage
3 workers, their employers, and the communities in which the workers
4 reside.

5 (c) Help partners coordinate new career counseling services
6 with existing online and other providers, including this state's
7 Michigan works system.

8 Sec. 5. In operating the program, the agency may do any of the
9 following:

10 (a) Partner with and coordinate the voluntary alignment of
11 program services with financial institutions and other public,
12 private, and nonprofit organizations to enable low-wage workers to
13 attain high-skilled and high-wage jobs in their communities.

14 (b) Encourage financial institutions to engage in any of the
15 following:

16 (i) Management functions of the program, including managing
17 lifelong learning accounts for individual employers and their
18 respective employees, consistent with program requirements and
19 guidelines.

20 (ii) Adding value to the program by providing financial
21 literacy and career counseling.

22 (iii) Integrating activities under a consolidated partnership,
23 which may include the designation of 1 fund manager to streamline
24 the establishment and management of the program.

25 (c) Develop program policies and system options that will lead
26 the program toward becoming self-sustaining.

27 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the

1 date it is enacted into law.