DIGEST

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HB 426 Original

2023 Regular Session

Bryant

Abstract: Expands eligibility for the work opportunity tax credit to businesses that hire any formerly incarcerated person within a certain period after the person's release from imprisonment.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes a nonrefundable corporate income tax credit for eligible businesses that hire eligible re-entrants for eligible jobs. Provides that the amount of the credit shall equal 5% of the total wages paid to an eligible re-entrant in an eligible job for 12 consecutive months following the re-entrant's release from imprisonment, with a maximum credit amount of \$2,500 per eligible re-entrant. <u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u>.

<u>Present law</u> establishes the following definitions for purposes of <u>present law</u>:

- (1) "Eligible business" means a business that is subject to La. income tax and participates in any of the work release programs provided for in <u>present law</u> (R.S. 15:711, 1111, 1199.9, or 1199.10).
- (2) "Eligible re-entrant" means an inmate or former inmate who is eligible to participate and is actively participating in a work release program provided for in present law.
- (3) "Eligible job" means the following:
 - (a) A new job.
 - (b) An existing job that has been vacant for at least one year.
 - (c) An existing job that is vacant because the person who previously filled the job left voluntarily or was terminated for cause.

<u>Proposed law</u> expands the definition of "eligible re-entrant" to include any formerly incarcerated person who is hired not more than 24 months after his release from imprisonment. Provides a certification process for verifying the status of such persons as eligible re-entrants.

<u>Proposed law</u> expands the definition of "eligible business" to include any business that hires an eligible re-entrant.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

 $(Amends\,R.S.\,47:287.750(A), (B)(intro.\,para.), (1), (2), (3)(intro.\,para.), (4), and (5), (D)(1), and (F))$