



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2013

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Bold Legislation Introduced to Enhance Wisconsin's Workforce

Madison—Today, three state legislators announced they are circulating a bill that makes a major investment to bolster Wisconsin's workforce. Those legislators include: Sen. Rick Gudex (R-Fond du Lac), Sen. Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay), and Rep. Kathleen Bernier (R-Lake Hallie).

Department statistics show that Wisconsin lags behind other states in two important ways with regards to workforce development: tracking real-time labor market information and the amount of funding that the state provides for worker skills training. The legislation being introduced will address those problems in two ways. First, the bill implements a Labor Market Information System (LMIS), which will help direct training resources, help students plan careers, and match employers and employees faster and more effectively. Second, the legislation creates an Office of Skills Development (OSD) within the Department of Workforce Development, and with grant funding, the OSD will help provide specific training for employers who need workers with particular skills.

"I believe that these sorts of targeted funding initiatives will help our state create one of the premier workforces in the country. Helping our workers get the skills they need to succeed will help reduce the current skills gap that we face here in Wisconsin, and more currently in-demand jobs will be filled by members of our communities here and across the country. Our most important job here in the Legislature is to help our economy by creating a prime environment to create jobs. The citizens of the 18th Senate District elected me to do that job, and this bill is a down-payment to continue Wisconsin on the road to prosperity," said Senator Rick Gudex.

"With this bill we have an opportunity to - for the long-term - address an emerging skills gap problem among our state's workers," said Rep. Bernier. "This proposal gets the ball rolling quickly so we can immediately proceed to connecting job-seekers with jobs now and in the future."

"Wisconsin's workers need better tools to connect with employers and Wisconsin's employers need the tools necessary to meet the educational and training needs of their employees. This bill will provide the strong investment Wisconsin's workers need and provide the information essential to our educational and training programs' success," said Senator Rob Cowles.

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