ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2769

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 8, 2024

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2769.

This bill directs the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to establish a program to connect persons with disabilities with qualified organizations providing job training for the disabled community and with employers with employment needs.

The bill requires the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to:

1. establish and maintain the program in collaboration with qualified organizations, defined as nonprofit organizations, or organizations working with nonprofit organizations, which have at least five years of experience working with persons with disabilities;

2. request community-based and nonprofit organizations to provide job training, education, and outreach services, making the organizations responsible for developing, in consultation with the department, on-the-job training and outreach materials;

3. develop an online resource hub to provide employment and training information for persons with disabilities, a list of qualified organizations providing job training, education, and outreach services to persons with disabilities, and a database which permits employers to post job openings and provides information on State labor laws and fair employment guidelines; and

4. issue an annual report to the Governor and Legislature reviewing the implementation of the program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will result in an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures related to costs associated with the development of the online resource hub. The hub will provide employment and training information, lists of qualified organizations providing outreach services, and a database where employers will post job openings. After the initial development investment, there will also be some costs associated with the annual maintenance and support for the resource hub.

There will also be a modest increase in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's workload to issue an annual report related to the implementation of this program.

The OLS does not anticipate any additional spending related to the job training programs themselves, which have already been established through various qualified community-based and non-profit organizations. The bill also specifies that these organizations will be responsible for developing on-the-job training and outreach materials.