



### **HB2501 commerce authority; adult workforce education (Caroll)**

This bill establishes an Adult Workforce Diploma Program (“Program”) within the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) to assist people ages 21 and over in earning a high school diploma and developing critical employability and career and technical skills.

- Establishes the Adult Workforce Diploma Program Fund which consists of legislative appropriations, gifts, grants, and donations
- Appropriates \$5M ongoing from the state general fund to the Program Fund

### **Program Requirements**

- Requires the ACA to issue a request for participation qualifications for program providers annually before August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Specifies that an approved program provider must meet all of the following:
  - Operating an accredited High School Diploma Program
  - At least two years of experience in providing adult dropout recovery services
  - Develop a learning plan for each student that integrates graduation requirements and career goals
  - Provide a course catalog that includes all courses necessary to meet high school graduation
  - Provide remediation opportunities in literacy and numeracy
  - Provide employability skills certification
  - Offer career pathway coursework
  - Offer preparation for industry recognized credentials
  - Offer career placement services
  - Offer academic skill intake assessments and transcript evaluations
- Requires the ACA to approve program providers and place providers on an approved list annually by October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Requires providers to enroll students into the program by November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Instructs the ACA to pay providers for each student who completes milestones as follows:
  - \$250 for each completed half unit of high school credit
  - \$250 for each earned employability skills certification
  - \$250 for each earned industry-recognized credential that requires up to 50 hours of training
  - \$500 for each earned industry-recognized credential that requires at least 50 hours but not more than 100 hours of training



Arizona School Boards Association

- \$750 for each earned industry-recognized credential that requires more than 100 hours of training
- \$1,000 for each earned high school diploma
- Requires providers submit monthly invoices to ACA for milestones met in the previous month
  - Requires ACA to pay providers in the order invoices have been received
  - Requires ACA to provide written updates including total dollars paid, estimated number of enrollments and the number of enrollments still available for the year
- Directs the ACA to review data from each approved program provider to ensure each is achieving minimum program performance standards including:
  - Graduation rate of at least 50%
  - Costs per graduate \$7,000 or less
- Stipulates a provider who fails to meet the minimum program performance standards is placed on probationary status
  - Removes providers from the approved list if they fail to meet the performance standards for two consecutive years
- Ends the Program on July 1, 2030