

Amendment to HB 1701-FN

1 Amend the bill by replacing sections 1 and 2 with the following:

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3 1 New Hampshire College Graduate Retention Incentive Partnership. RSA 12-O:46 to 12-O:50  
4 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

5 12-O:46 Definitions. In this subdivision:

6 I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of business and economic  
7 affairs (DBEA).

8 II. "Department" means the department of business and economic affairs.

9 III. "Eligible institution of higher education" means any public or private institution of  
10 higher education authorized to grant 2-year or 4-year degrees in this state by the higher education  
11 commission pursuant to RSA 21-N:8-a.

12 IV. "Graduate" means a student who graduates from an eligible institution of higher  
13 education in May 2019 or thereafter.

14 V. "Incentive" means a monetary award given each year for not more than 4 years by a  
15 participating employer to a graduate which the graduate may elect to be paid to the graduate or to  
16 an entity servicing the graduate's student loans.

17 VI. "Participating employer" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association,  
18 the state or political subdivision of the state, or any other entity which enters into a participating  
19 employer agreement to provide an incentive to a graduate.

20 VII. "Participating employer agreement" or "agreement" means an agreement prepared  
21 jointly by the department of business and economic affairs in consultation with the New Hampshire  
22 College and University Council and the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire.

23 12-O:47 New Hampshire College Graduate Retention Incentive Partnership Established. There  
24 is established the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership (NH GRIP)  
25 which shall be administered by the department. The purpose of NH GRIP is to recruit and retain  
26 graduates from eligible institutions of higher education and provide incentives to those graduates to  
27 work in New Hampshire. Any partnership reached or agreed upon as a result of this subdivision  
28 shall be limited to informational outreach and collaboration. No new administrative infrastructure  
29 shall be required as a result of the establishment of this partnership.

30 12-O:47-a Implementation.

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1           I. The department shall relaunch and administer NH GRIP in accordance with this  
2 subdivision.

3           II. The department may develop and publish application procedures and eligibility  
4 guidelines for participating employers, including but not limited to:

5                   (a) Criteria for employer participation;

6                   (b) Terms of graduate employment and retention;

7                   (c) Documentation and reporting requirements; and

8                   (d) Any other rules necessary to carry out the purposes of the program.

9           III. The department shall take steps to minimize its administrative burden and rely  
10 primarily on employer self certification in its implementation of NH GRIP.

11           12-O:47-b Prioritization. In administering NH GRIP, the department shall give priority to  
12 employers headquartered or principally located in New Hampshire that qualify as small businesses  
13 under federal or state definitions; and employers in sectors experiencing documented workforce  
14 shortages, including but not limited to health care, skilled trades, and technology.

15           12-O:48 Requirements and Procedure.

16           I. Each participating employer shall compile a list of positions which qualify for an incentive  
17 under NH GRIP. The participating employer shall publish the list of qualifying positions on the  
18 employer's public Internet site and on any Internet employment search site used by the participating  
19 employer. A graduate who obtains employment in a qualifying position with a participating  
20 employer and who executes an agreement, shall receive an incentive of not less than \$1,000 each  
21 year for the first 4 years of the graduate's employment with the participating employer. The  
22 agreement shall be signed by an authorized agent of the participating employer. The participating  
23 employer shall retain a copy of each signed agreement in its files.

24           II. The DBEA may accept employer attestations and shall not be required to independently  
25 verify individual agreements.

26           III. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any agreement executed pursuant  
27 to this subdivision shall not constitute a state or DBEA contract and shall not require the approval  
28 of the governor or executive council.

29           12-O:49 Advertising. The department may, in cooperation with the Business and Industry  
30 Association of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire College and University Council, the New  
31 Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Fund, the New Hampshire Coalition for Business and  
32 Education, and Stay, Work, Play NH, advertise to New Hampshire employers and New Hampshire  
33 college students the details of NH GRIP, through print and electronic media.

34           12-O:50 Funding. For the biennium beginning July 1, 2027, and each biennium thereafter, the  
35 commissioner shall include any requests for appropriations related to NH GRIP in the biennial  
36 agency budget requests pursuant to RSA 9:4.

37           12-O:50-a Reporting.

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1           I. The department shall publish an annual report detailing program participation, costs, and  
2 outcomes. Department reports shall be based on information submitted by participating employers.

3           II. On or before November 1 of each year in which NH GRIP is active, the department shall  
4 submit a report to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house  
5 and senate finance committees, and the house and senate commerce committees. The report shall  
6 include:

7                   (a) The number of participating employers and graduates;

8                   (b) Retention outcomes and geographic distribution of participants;

9                   (c) Program expenditures and administrative costs; and

10                  (d) Recommendations for program continuation, expansion, or modification.

11           III. A comprehensive review of program efficacy shall be conducted every 5 years by the  
12 department.

13           12-O:50-b Rulemaking. The department of business and economic affairs shall have the  
14 authority to adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, as necessary pursuant to the implementation of  
15 this subdivision.

16           2 Appropriations. The sum of \$1 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 and the sum of \$1 for  
17 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, are hereby appropriated to the department of business and  
18 economic affairs for the purpose of advertising and disseminating information to New Hampshire  
19 college students and graduates regarding the New Hampshire college graduate retention and  
20 incentive partnership (NH GRIP) established in RSA 12-O:47 through 50-b. The governor is  
21 authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise  
22 appropriated.