

# HOUSE BILL NO. 6265

June 22, 2022, Introduced by Reps. Kuppa, Anthony, Breen, Neeley, Scott, Aiyash, Ellison, Manoogian, Glanville, Rogers, Cynthia Johnson, Sabo, Hood, Steckloff, Cavanagh, Weiss, Sowerby and Hope and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to create the renewal award benefit program; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities; to provide for the payment of renewal award benefits; to create the renewal award benefit fund; and to require the promulgation of rules.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "renewal award benefit  
2 act".

3           Sec. 3. As used in this act:

1 (a) "Benefits" or "renewal award benefits" means renewal award  
2 benefits payable under this act.

3 (b) "Department" means the department of labor and economic  
4 opportunity.

5 (c) "Eligible county" means a county of this state that,  
6 during the immediately preceding 5-year period, experienced a net  
7 decline in population as determined by the department.

8 (d) "Eligible individual" means an individual who meets all of  
9 the following requirements:

10 (i) Has any of the following:

11 (A) An associate, bachelor's, or postgraduate degree from an  
12 institution of higher education.

13 (B) A certificate from an apprenticeship or other professional  
14 program that allows the individual to work in a qualifying job.

15 (ii) Establishes and maintains his or her domicile in an  
16 eligible county.

17 (iii) Is employed in a qualifying job.

18 (e) "Institution of higher education" means a degree- or  
19 certificate-granting public or private college or university,  
20 junior college, or community college that is located in this state.

21 (f) "Prosperity region" means each of the 10 prosperity  
22 regions identified by the department of technology, management, and  
23 budget on the effective date of this act.

24 (g) "Prosperity region average wage" means the average annual  
25 wage for the prosperity region in which a qualifying job is located  
26 based on the most recent data made available by the Michigan bureau  
27 of labor market information and strategic initiatives.

28 (h) "Qualifying job" means a job that meets all of the  
29 following requirements as determined by the department:

1 (i) Is in high demand based on the number of annual openings,  
2 net change in employment, and growth rate.

3 (ii) Requires that an employee meet at least 1 of the following  
4 conditions:

5 (A) Complete any amount of education from an institute of  
6 higher education.

7 (B) Possess a high school diploma or a high school equivalency  
8 certificate as that term is defined in section 4 of the state  
9 school aid act of 1979, MCL 388.1604, and have long-term, on-the-  
10 job training.

11 (C) Complete an apprenticeship.

12 (D) Complete an internship.

13 (E) Complete a residency program.

14 (iii) Pays an average annual wage that is equal to 125% or more  
15 of the prosperity region average wage.

16 Sec. 5. (1) Beginning 90 days after the effective date of this  
17 act, the department shall accept applications for renewal award  
18 benefits from eligible individuals.

19 (2) An eligible individual may submit an application for  
20 benefits on a form and in a manner prescribed by the department not  
21 later than 5 years after the eligible individual receives a degree  
22 or certificate. The application must include all of the following:

23 (a) Proof of the eligible individual's hourly wage earnings.

24 (b) Proof of the total number of hours of service provided by  
25 the eligible individual for the pay period that corresponds with  
26 the hourly wage earnings described in subdivision (a).

27 (c) A declaration that the eligible individual will maintain  
28 his or her domicile in an eligible county for 2 months for every  
29 month that the eligible individual receives benefits.

1           Sec. 7. (1) Except as provided under subsection (2), beginning  
2 on the date the department approves an eligible individual's  
3 application, the department shall provide the following benefit  
4 amounts to the eligible individual on the last business day of each  
5 month for a period not to exceed 24 months:

6           (a) If the individual earns an hourly wage of \$40.00 or more,  
7 \$100.00.

8           (b) If the individual earns an hourly wage of \$35.00 or more  
9 but less than \$40.00, \$150.00.

10           (c) If the individual earns an hourly wage of \$30.00 or more  
11 but less than \$35.00, \$200.00.

12           (d) If the individual earns an hourly wage of \$25.00 or more  
13 but less than \$30.00, \$250.00.

14           (e) If the individual earns an hourly wage of \$20.00 or more  
15 but less than \$25.00, \$300.00.

16           (f) If the individual earns an hourly wage of \$15.00 or more  
17 but less than \$20.00, \$350.00.

18           (g) If the individual earns an hourly wage of less than  
19 \$15.00, \$400.00.

20           (2) If the department is unable to pay benefits to all  
21 eligible individuals in a month because the money in the renewal  
22 award benefit fund is insufficient, the department shall award  
23 proportionately reduced benefits to all eligible individuals so  
24 that the total amount of benefits paid is equal to the amount of  
25 money available in the renewal award benefit fund for the  
26 applicable month.

27           Sec. 9. (1) If at the time an individual receives a benefit  
28 the individual is not an eligible individual, the individual shall  
29 repay the benefit to the department.

1           (2) An eligible individual who does not maintain his or her  
2 domicile in an eligible county for the number of months required  
3 under section 5(3) shall repay any benefits received during the  
4 time period that the eligible individual did not maintain his or  
5 her domicile in an eligible county.

6           Sec. 11. (1) The renewal award benefit fund is created in the  
7 state treasury.

8           (2) The state treasurer shall deposit money and other assets  
9 received from any source into the fund. The state treasurer shall  
10 direct the investment of money in the fund and credit interest and  
11 earnings from the investments to the fund.

12           (3) The department is the administrator of the fund for audits  
13 of the fund.

14           (4) The department shall expend money from the fund upon  
15 appropriation only for the purpose of paying benefits to eligible  
16 individuals under this act.

17           Sec. 13. (1) The department shall promulgate rules to  
18 implement this act under the administrative procedures act of 1969,  
19 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

20           (2) The department shall compile and publish a list of  
21 eligible counties by January 1 of each year.

22           (3) The department shall assist eligible counties with  
23 educating potential eligible individuals about the benefits that  
24 are available under this act.