

COMMERCE

Wisconsin Development Fund-Grants for Plant Closing

Motion:

Move to require Commerce to allocate \$1 million in 2003-04 for grants from the Wisconsin Development Fund to individuals, communities, consortia, and businesses that are affected by a plant closing on or after February 1, 2001, where at least 500 from a single plant closing, or 1,000 people from more than one plant closing in a county lose their jobs over a twelve month period, or the unemployment rate for that year is over 7.5.

Note:

The Wisconsin Development Fund (WDF) provides financial assistance to businesses, consortia, nonprofit organizations, and local governments for economic development projects through the following programs: (a) technology development grants and loans; (b) customized labor training grants and loans; (c) major economic development grants and loans; (d) urban early planning grants; (e) Wisconsin trade project; (e) employee ownership assistance grants; (f) manufacturing extension center grants; (g) revolving loan fund capitalization grants; and (h) the rapid response fund. Commerce and the Small Business Development Center of the University of Wisconsin-Extension partnered to develop, as a pilot program, the entrepreneurial training grant program. Commerce also makes business employee skills training (BEST) grants through the WDF. The WDF is funded through a GPR and program revenue repayments appropriation. Amounts received from WDF loan repayments are credited to the repayments appropriation and these monies are used to fund WDF grants and loans. Base level funding for WDF grants and loans is \$10 million annually (\$5,953,800 GPR and \$4,050,000 PR). Under the provisions of SB 44, \$1,455,400 GPR annually would be deleted from the WDF. The bill would provide \$8.5 million annually.

This motion would require Commerce to allocate \$1 million from the WDF in 2003-04 for grants to individuals, communities, consortia, or businesses affected by certain plant closings.