



California State Assembly

Assemblyman

V. MANUEL PÉREZ

Eightieth Assembly District

ASSEMBLY BILL 3 (V.M. PÉREZ)

Renewable Energy Workforce Readiness Initiative

The Problem:

- Currently, there is a gap between the generation of renewable energy and the workforce development infrastructure to prepare California's labor force for the economy of the future—the green economy. California has the most potential for renewable energy development of any state in the U.S. Meanwhile, our rising unemployment rate reached a startling 12.2% in September 2009.

Background:

- An analysis performed in 2006 by the Renewable Energy Policy Project looked at the employment gains throughout the U.S. and ranked California No. 1 with over 5,000 firms capable of manufacturing the necessary components for green facilities and infrastructure.
- Research demonstrates that renewable energy industries generate more jobs than fossil-fuel intensive industries. For instance, wind and solar energy generate 40% more jobs per dollar invested than coal over the course of a 10-year period; per million dollars invested, the solar industry creates 5.65 jobs, wind energy generates 5.7 jobs, whereas coal creates only 3.96 jobs.
- By 2020, California is required to generate or purchase 33% of its electricity from renewable energy sources. According to a report by the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, this would create well over 200,000 new manufacturing jobs.
- *The Climate Gap Report*, a 2009 analysis from the University of Southern California, identified the climate gap as the "disproportionate and unequal impact the climate crisis has on people of color and the poor. Climate changes will dramatically reduce job opportunities or cause major employment shifts in sectors that predominantly employ low-income and people of color." Currently, 60% of workers in heavy polluting industries are people of color.
- Strategic green workforce development can help close the climate and economic disparities in California, as well as provide a long-term, sustainable solution for the economic crisis. "Green-collar jobs"—family-supporting, career-track, vocational, or trade-related employment in environmentally-friendly fields—can provide employment for dislocated workers and pathways out of poverty for California's most impacted and marginalized communities.

Legislative Solution:

- AB 3 will require the CA Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) to establish the Renewable Energy Workforce Readiness Initiative (Initiative) by June 2010 to improve green-collar career placement and advancement opportunities within California's renewable energy sectors.
- AB 3 will provide guidance to local workforce investment boards on how to establish comprehensive green collar job assessment, training, and placement programs that reflect the local and regional economies and that lead to stable career opportunities.
- AB 3 will address how to effectively engage and serve low-income and disadvantaged populations, at-risk youth, individuals with criminal convictions or juvenile adjudications, displaced and incumbent workers, and veterans of past or present military service.
- AB 3 will mandate that the Initiative be developed in consultation with the California Green Collar Jobs Council, and will also include the participation of non-profit organizations, local governments, state-approved apprenticeship programs, community colleges, postsecondary educational institutions, regional occupational programs, and local workforce training partnerships.

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