

Legislative Analysis



NUCLEAR AND HYDROGEN EDUCATION GRANTS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4125 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Mike McFall

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 4126 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Samantha Steckloff

Committee: Energy
Complete to 2-27-25

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4125 would create a new act, the Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program Act, to establish a program for awarding grants to certain postsecondary schools in Michigan that establish or expand educational programs that lead to degrees or credentials supportive of the nuclear and hydrogen industries and that offer scholarships to students who commit to work in those industries after graduation.

The Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program would be created in the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO). The bill would require LEO to administer the program for the purpose of awarding grants from the Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program Fund (proposed by House Bill 4126) on a competitive basis to any degree- or certificate-granting public or private college or university, junior college, community college, or vocational or technical school in Michigan that seeks to establish or expand an instructional program that does both of the following:

- Leads to a degree or credential that supports the nuclear industry, the hydrogen industry, or both, including any skilled craft or engineering program that supports the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of an electricity-generating facility powered by nuclear or hydrogen energy.
- Offers or otherwise makes available a scholarship program that provides direct grants or tax credits, or both, to students who commit in good faith to employment for at least three years after receiving a degree or credential at a Michigan electricity-generating facility that is powered by nuclear or hydrogen energy.

LEO would have to develop and issue rules and establish policies and procedures necessary for the administration of the Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program, including those addressing program applications and grant awards.

The bill can take effect only if House Bills 4124 and 4126 to 4129 are also enacted.

House Bill 4126 would create a new act, the Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program Fund Act, which would establish the Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program Fund in the state treasury. The state treasurer would have to deposit in the fund money and other assets received from any source. The state treasurer would have to direct the investment of fund money and credit the fund with interest and earnings from those investments. Money in the

fund at the close of a fiscal year would remain in the fund and would not lapse to the general fund. LEO would be the administrator of the fund for auditing purposes.

LEO would have to expend money from the fund, upon appropriation, only for awarding grants under the program proposed by House Bill 4125.

The bill can take effect only if House Bills 4124, 4125, 4127, 4128, and 4129 are also enacted.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4125 would likely result in increased costs for LEO. Under the bill, LEO would be responsible for administering the Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program. LEO's responsibilities under the bill would include establishing policies and procedures and promulgating administrative rules, although the department would likely incur ongoing costs for the continued administration of the program. The magnitude of these costs is currently indeterminate and would largely depend on the program's size and utilization.

House Bill 4126 would create a state restricted fund, the Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program Fund, which would be administered by LEO. Expenditures could be made from the fund, upon appropriation, only to award grants under the Nuclear and Hydrogen Education Grant Program created under HB 4125. The bill is silent with respect to a revenue source for the fund.

The bills would not have a fiscal impact on community colleges or public universities. They would allow LEO to award grants to postsecondary institutions that choose to establish or expand nuclear or hydrogen related programs. However, postsecondary institutions would not be required to do so under the proposed legislation.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.