



FÉLAGS- OG
TRYGGINGAMÁLARÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security

**Vocational Training (Business Sector) Act, No. 19/1992,
as amended by Act No. 140/1996.**

I. Aim and Scope.

Article 1

The aim of this Act is to stimulate increased vocational training in the business sector with the intention of:

- a. fostering increased productivity, raising the quality of goods and services and opening the way to technical innovation and development in Icelandic business;
- b. fostering improved practical skills and increased ability on the part of workers to encounter new demands and a changing environment;
- c. increasing the opportunities open to the individual and improving the position of the individual on the employment market by giving him the opportunity to extend and update his knowledge, at the same time making him more able to take on new and changed tasks;
- d. to give those in employment and those who are temporarily unemployed, and in particular those who have had little or no previous vocational training, the same access to vocational training by making basic training for particular jobs, or for work in a particular occupation, readily available,
- e. to enable workers to change occupations according to circumstances and prospects at any given time, and
- f. to meet the needs of groups of workers who lose their jobs because of changes in working methods for re-education and training for other jobs as appropriate at any given time.

Article 2

The aim of this Act shall be achieved by:

- a. supporting systematic vocational training, preparatory work, the production of course and teaching material, teaching and practical training as specified in further detail in this Act, and
- b. initiating and formulating an overall policy for vocational training in the business sector in accordance with the decision of the Vocational Training Council.

Article 3

This Act shall cover studies (courses) followed by participants in order to increase their skills and knowledge for the jobs in which they work or intend to work, providing that this conforms to the aims of the Act and the conditions on the labour market at any given time.

This training includes:

- a. Basic vocational training: Fundamental vocational training for particular jobs or for work in a particular occupation in manufacturing or services.
- b. Follow-up training: Updating of professional knowledge or additional training which people follow in their professional spheres.

II. Organization.

Article 4

Vocational training in the business sector shall be administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs. However, vocational training in the fish-processing industry shall be the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries.

Article 5

The Minister shall appoint a seven-man Vocational Training Council for a two-year term which shall be in charge of implementing this Act. One member shall be appointed by the Minister of Social Affairs without nomination. Three members shall be nominated by the employers' organizations, two by the Confederation of Icelandic Employers and one by the Association of Co-Operative Employers. Three members shall be nominated by the wage earners' organizations, two by the Icelandic Federation of Labour and one by the Federation of State and Municipal Employees. The Vocational Training Council shall decide on the sharing of tasks between its members.

The role of the Vocational Training Council shall be to award grants for vocational training and to act in an advisory capacity to the authorities on policy and methods in the field of vocational training in accordance with this Act.

In its work, the Vocational Training Council shall consult the training committees in the various industrial sectors and encourage them to act on their own initiative in accordance with further provisions to be set in a Regulation.

Article 6

The operational (financial) year of the Vocational Training Council shall be the calendar year, and it shall be divided into award periods.

Before each award period begins, the Vocational Training Council shall decide on the priority order of projects and the apportionment of the funds at its disposal between the various project categories.

At the beginning of each award period, the Vocational Training Council shall invite applications for grants for the preparation and/or holding of courses, stating in its advertisement the priority order of projects and the apportionment of funds for the current period.

The Vocational Training Council shall set itself further working rules, subject to the approval of the Minister.

Article 7

The Ministry of Social Affairs shall gather information about vocational training and its availability and relay this information to the principal organizations of the social partners.

III. Finance.

Article 8

[The Minister of Social Affairs and the Minister of Fisheries shall make proposals on the funding needed for vocational training in the business sector on receipt of comments from the Vocational Training Council and The Vocational Training Council for the fish-processing industry. Yearly funds shall be granted from the Unemployment Fund to support vocational training, cf. Article 4, and the amount shall be determined in the Budget each year. The Vocational Training Council shall administer awards granted to vocational training.]¹⁾

¹⁾ Act No. 140/1996, Article 10.

Article 9

Grants from the Vocational Training Fund may be awarded for:

- a. paying the cost of preparing study programs (courses), e.g. the cost of project management and the production of study and teaching materials;
- b. paying the cost of holding courses, e.g. the cost of teaching facilities and traveling and transport;
- c. other expenses according to the decision of the Vocational Training Council.

All other things being equal, it shall be a precondition for the awarding of a grant that a specific part of the direct operational costs of courses shall be borne by participation fees, this being determined in further detail by the Vocational Training Council.

IV. Applications.

Article 10

The following shall have the right to apply for grants for vocational training: employers' and workers' organizations, individual business enterprises, private or public bodies which organize vocational training in the business sector, the vocational training councils of the individual occupations and co-operative projects involving two or more of the aforementioned parties.

Schools shall have the right to apply for grants in cases involving collaboration with one or more of the parties listed in paragraph 1.

Article 11

The following information shall accompany applications for grants under Article 9 of this Act:

- a. The aim of the studies for which a grant is sought.
- b. A description of the content of the studies.
- c. Information about the instructors.
- d. The length of the studies.
- e. The required standard and methods of assessment.
- f. The group for which the course of studies is intended, and the size of this group.
- g. The estimated number of participants.
- h. Estimates of expenses and income.
- i. A survey of courses held by the applicant during the previous calendar year.

V. Miscellaneous Provisions.

Article 12

Recipients of assistance under this Act shall be obliged to submit information about the education or training which has been offered in accordance with further provisions to be set in a Regulation.

Article 13

A copy of the study material produced or designed with assistance under this Act shall be submitted to the Minister of Social Affairs.

The Minister may put the material mentioned in paragraph 1 to further use in accordance with the suggestions of the Vocational Training Council in consultation with the copyright owner.

Article 14

The Ministry of Social Affairs shall keep records of the study courses which have received assistance under this Act. It shall also be in charge of publicizing and providing information about vocational training on offer and the study and teaching materials at its disposal in accordance with further provisions to be set in a Regulation.

Article 15

The Ministry of Education and Culture shall determine which of the courses of study assisted under this Act shall be recognized for course credits within the general school system.

Article 16

The Minister shall set further rules in a Regulation regarding the implementation of this Act, including the limitation of its application and scope, on receipt of the proposals of the Vocational Training Council.

Article 17

This Act shall take immediate effect.

The Act shall be revised not later than three years after it takes effect.

*[This translation is published for information only.
The original Icelandic text is published in the Law Gazette.
In case of a possible discrepancy, the original Icelandic text applies.]*