

**NO FISCAL IMPACT**

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 11-0406**Date:** January 14, 2011**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Tochtrop**Bill Status:** Senate Business, Labor & Technology**Fiscal Analyst:** Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCE PROGRAM.**Summary of Legislation**

The bill makes technical changes to current law concerning the Trade Readjustment Allowance Program (TRA), administered by the Division of Employment and Training in the Department of Labor and Employment. Conforming with recent amendments to the federal law under which Colorado's program operates, the bill prohibits the denial of TRA benefits to otherwise eligible individuals who left temporary work or on-the-job training in certain circumstances. The bill is effective upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**Background**

As a component of the federal Trade Act of 1974, as amended, the federal government provides the department funds to compensate and retrain workers whose employment ceased as a result of overseas competition in various industries and trades. The TRA program is a benefit of last resort, available to workers who have exhausted other available benefits (e.g., unemployment claims). In recent history, Colorado was awarded and paid out a maximum of \$4.8 million in TRA benefits in federal FY2007. Colorado's TRA benefits paid in federal FY2010 were less than \$0.5 million.

**Assessment**

No fiscal impact is assessed for this bill. Proposed changes to Colorado's statutes concerning TRA reflect changes to conform with federal law. No state appropriation is required to implement the bill.

**Departments Contacted**

Labor and Employment

Personnel and Administration