

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Panel wants funding for worker training

The state should set aside \$10 million each year in a "rapid response" fund for worker training programs at the state's community and technical colleges, the House Appropriations Committee decided Monday.

The committee approved without objection the proposal sought by Gov. Bobby Jindal's administration. Labor Secretary Tim Barfield said the fund would address high-demand training needs that arise quickly, such as when a new company or business is starting up in the state and needs workers with certain skills training.

"It's intended to give a lot of flexibility," Barfield said.

House Bill 1018 heads next to the House floor for debate. Dollars for the fund would have to be appropriated in a separate budget bill to pay for it.