

MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM WIA ELIGIBILITY MOTION
FINAL MOTION

BACKGROUND

Registered Apprenticeship is a national training system that combines paid learning, on-the-job training, and related technical and theoretical instruction in a skilled occupation. The purpose of a Registered Apprenticeship program is to enable employers to develop and apply industry standards to training programs that can increase productivity and improve the quality of the workforce. Certifications earned through Registered Apprenticeship programs are recognized nationwide as portable industry credentials.

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) statute and regulations require the Governor to designate a State agency to develop and maintain the State list of eligible training providers and programs (20 CFR 663-510 (c) (1)). Currently, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Maryland Higher Education Commission share responsibility for maintaining the State-approved training provider list. These agencies in partnership with local areas administer the eligible provider process in a manner to assure that significant numbers of competent providers, offering a variety of training programs and occupational choices are available to customers.

WIA statutes and regulations explicitly provide for flexibility in determining registered apprenticeship training programs as initially eligible providers of WIA-funded training services, which would expand the available training options to Individual Training Account (ITA) recipients. Specifically, the WIA regulations at 20 CFR 663.505 (b)(2)(ii) identify entities that carry out programs under the National Apprenticeship Act (NAA) as potential eligible providers of training services. The WIA regulations at 20 CFR 663.515(b) empower local WIBs to determine the eligible training provider application procedures for apprenticeship programs registered under the NAA. As such, apprenticeship programs may benefit from streamlined processes for becoming initially approved as eligible providers of training to ITA recipients, without having to undergo the standard State agency review process (20 CFR 663.515 (d)).

MOTION

The GWIB approves the recommendation to add all Maryland registered apprenticeship programs to the State-approved Training Provider and Program List, without having to undergo the standard State agency review process.