

Workforce Investment Act of 2013
S. 1356 (Manager's Amd.)
(Approved by Senate HELP Committee 7/31/13)

Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.

Key Provisions

Required programs:

- WIA Adult Program; (2) WIA Youth Activities; (3) WIA Dislocated Workers; (4) Employment Services (ES)/Wagner-Peyser Funded Activities; (5) Adult Ed and Literacy activities authorized under Title III; (6) Programs authorized under Title I of the Rehab Act; (7) activities authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965; (8) career and technical education programs at the postsecondary level authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006; (9) activities authorized under Title II of the Trade Act; (10) activities authorized under Chapter 41 of Title 38 (Veterans Employment and Training); (11) employment and training activities carried out under the Community Services Block Grant Act; (12) employment and training activities carried out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; (13) programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law); (14) programs authorized under Section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007; and, (15) programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act.

Planning

- Requires 3-year plans for both state and local plans.

Workforce Boards

- State Board Membership includes the Governor; two members of each chamber of the State legislature; and members appointed by the Governor of which the majority shall remain representatives of business. Similar to current law, the Governor selects the chairperson from one of the business members. Adds a requirement that business board members represent businesses that provide employment opportunities that ensure workers an improvement in standard of living, provide pathways for career advancement, and provide high-quality training in in-demand jobs; requires that at least 20% of board represent the workforce, including labor organizations; requires the balance of the board to include state government officials responsible for core programs (WIA formula grant programs, adult education programs, the Employment Service, and vocational rehabilitation), chief elected officials, and a representative of apprenticeship programs. The members of the State board shall represent diverse geographic areas of the State, including urban, rural, and suburban areas.
- Authorizes approved alternative entities to serve as the board (maintains grandfathering provision under current law).

One-Stop System

- Establishes the one-stop delivery system. Identifies one-stop partners and their roles and responsibilities. Describes the MOUs that will be entered into between the local workforce development boards and the one stop partner organizations to operate the one-stop delivery system. Outlines the process for designating or certifying one-stop operators.
- Provides for infrastructure funding through MOUs (similar to current law). In the absence of an MOU, provides a mechanism for the State to determine how the one-stop partner programs in a local area will contribute to infrastructure costs. Under the state mechanism, caps are included on the amounts that each program may be required to contribute.

Eligible Training Providers

- Similar to HR 803, describes eligibility for providers, and provides state criteria for selecting providers. Describes application procedures.
- Eliminates current statutory requirements for eligible training providers. Provides Governors with flexibility to establish performance criteria and procedures for identifying eligible training providers. Requires Governor to make available a list of all eligible providers. Allows certified apprenticeship programs to be eligible training providers automatically.
- Requires Governor to solicit and take into consideration recommendations of local boards and training providers, and allows Governor to authorize local areas to establish additional criteria for training providers. Maintains the current law exemption from eligible training provider requirements for on-the-job and customized training providers.

Performance Accountability

- Establishes performance accountability indicators at the state level that are common to each of the core programs for adults and performance accountability indicators for the youth formula program under title II. The proposed measures generally mirror the NGA/NASWA performance measures proposal and adds an indicator on the effectiveness of serving employers.