

LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE –
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

I. Changing Timelines on the State Strategic Plan for Workforce Development

Statement of Need:

State statute (RCW 28C.18.080) directs the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) to create the state plan for workforce development and to update the plan every two years. Every two years the Workforce Board works intensively to update the state strategic plan. In order to update the plan:

- We review national literature
- Draw from national and local best practice and experience
- Study the demographic context
- Study the economic context using the Workforce Board statewide biennial employer survey and our workforce gap analyses in addition to many other sources
- We bring together expert work groups, chaired by the members of our Board to create a draft
- We work with our interagency committee to provide further input on the draft
- We take the draft to our Board for review and approval for wider public input
- We hold public forums across the state, augmented by video teleconferencing to reach the broadest audience possible
- We elicit input via email, phone, letter, in-person meetings
- We change the draft according to the input we receive
- Our Board approves the final draft
- We bring a resolution to the Legislature as directed in state Legislation, for their formal approval

This process is extremely time intensive and uses major resources of the Board. We believe that updating the plan every four years rather than every two years is preferable for these reasons:

- The major demographic and economic contexts for the plan do not change as rapidly as every two years.
- Planning every four years would bring our process in alignment with the Higher Education Coordinating Board's strategic master plan and improve agency alignment
- The Workforce Board and our partner agencies would be able to devote more time and resources on implementing the plan rather than concentrating on planning itself. This is particularly important in a time of limited resources.
- There is nothing to preclude us from doing updates at any time if needed.

In addition the proposed bill would create a 10-year horizon for the state strategic plan for Workforce Development. This direction would ensure that the Workforce Board looks to the future in setting goals, objectives and strategies, and would align the workforce plan with the time horizon of the HECB Master Plan.

Representative Jarrett sponsored a bill that had the same provision in the 2008 session. The Workforce Board did not request this bill in 2008 but testified in support.

2. Summary of Main Provisions:

The proposed statutory amendments would direct the Workforce Board to update the state strategic plan for workforce development every four years rather than every two years. The amendments would also direct that the plan should be a plan for 10 years. Currently statute does not set a planning horizon period.

Agencies Affected:

All the agencies and stakeholders represented on the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DSHS (Lynnae Rutledge)
Office of Community, Trade and Economic Development (Julie Wilkerson – Designee Julie Anderson)
Employment Security Department (Commissioner Karen Lee)
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (Terry Bergeson – Designee John Aultman)
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (Charlie Earl)
12 Workforce Development Councils (Kris Stadelman, CEO Seattle-King county WDC)

Other Stakeholders

Labor: Rick Bender (Washington State Labor Council AFL-CIO), Janet Lewis (IBEW46), Beth Thew (Spokane Regional Labor Council)
Business representatives: Mike Hudson (AWB), Martin Bean (Microsoft) and Creigh Agnew (formerly Weyerhaeuser)
Member representing Target Populations: Tony Lee (Fremont Public Association and Policy Director at the Statewide Poverty Action Network)

Summary of Agency and Stakeholder Positions

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

The Workforce Board supported this legislative proposal at their meeting on September 25. The members of the Board represent the major stakeholders in the Workforce Development System and recognize the increase in efficiency that this will afford the Workforce Board, and also their own organizations.

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Code Reviser Draft: See enclosed Z-0154.3

Fiscal Note: See enclosed fiscal note indicating there is no fiscal impact.