

BILL SUMMARY: STREAMLINING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT AND LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BUSINESS SUCCESS ACT

House Republicans on the Education and Workforce Committee have released two bills designed to make sweeping changes to the workforce training system. The bills consolidate many existing workforce programs, enable states to designate funding and services, and restructure workforce investment boards.

LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BUSINESS SUCCESS ACT – HR 3611

Introduced by Congressman Joe Heck (R-NV), H.R. 3611, the Local Job Opportunities and Business Success Act would restructure workforce investment boards with a focus on business leadership. The bill would require that boards be comprised of two-thirds representation from the business community. Additionally, it would strip current requirements that the board include representation from community colleges (when available), local education stakeholders, WIA partner programs, and labor organizations.

The bill also requires workforce investment boards to set aside and directly award funds for local training activities. They may also accept and solicit non-federal funding for these awards.

STREAMLINING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT – HR 3610

Introduced by Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC), H.R. 3610, the Streamlining Workforce Development Act would provide a massive consolidation of workforce programs and direct them toward more state control. The bill would take 33 of the 47 workforce training programs identified in a January 2011 GAO report and consolidate them into four funding streams.

- Workforce Investment Fund - provides formula funding to states for job training services to adults, unemployed workers, and youth seeking employment. The bill authorizes \$4.3 billion annually for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2018;
- State Youth Workforce Investment Fund - provides formula funds to states to serve the nation's disadvantaged youth by awarding competitive grants with a focus on school completion. The bill authorizes \$1.9 billion annually for FYs 2013-2018;
- Veterans Workforce Investment Fund - provides formula funds to states for employment and training services to U.S. veterans. The bill authorizes \$218 million annually for FYs 2013-2018;
- Targeted Populations Workforce Investment Fund - provides formula funds to states for assistance to special populations, including Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farmworkers. The bill authorizes \$581 million annually for FYs 2013-2018.

Notably, funding for the Workforce Investment Act programs would be eliminated in this bill, and combined authorizations for the four new invest funds would be set at just under \$7 billion. However, appropriators could choose to fund it at a different amount. Funding for the programs that would be eliminated by H.R. 3610 was approximately \$8.6 billion in FY 2010.

Governors would have significant power in determining what locations would be designated as workforce areas, which populations would be served, and what type of programs would be instituted. Even though the bill maintains authorizations for TAA, Career and Technical Education, and Perkins, it allows states the leeway to take money from TAA, Career and Technical Education, and Perkins and redistribute it to other workforce areas.

PROGRAMS ELIMINATED UNDER HR 3610

Department of Labor

- WIA Adult
- WIA Youth
- WIA Dislocated Worker
- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program
- Employment Services / Wagner – Peysers Funded Activities
- H-1B Job Training Grants
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
- Job Corps
- Local Veterans Employment Representative Program
- National Farmworker Jobs Program
- Native American Employment and Training
- Reintegration of Ex-Offenders
- Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Transition Assistance Program
- Veterans' Workforce Investment Program
- WANTO
- YouthBuild

Department of Education

- Grants to States for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Individuals
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Program
- Projects with Industry
- State-Supported Employment Services Program

Department of Health and Human Services

- Refugee and Entrant Assistance – Voluntary Agency Matching Grants Program
- Refugee and Entrant Assistance – Targeted Assistance Grants
- Refugee and Entrant Assistance – Social Services Program
- Refugee and Entrant Assistance – Targeted Assistance Discretionary Program
- Tribal Work Grants

Department of Interior

- Conservation Activities by Youth Service Organizations
- Indian Employment Assistance
- Indian Vocational Training – United Tribes Technical College

Environmental Protection Agency

- Brownfield Job Training Cooperative Agreements

Department of Agriculture

- SNAP Employment and Training Program

Department of Defense

- National Guard Youth Challenge Program

Department of Justice

- Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative