



FEDERAL-PP-03: REAUTHORIZATION OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT

PROPOSED POLICY: SUPPORT reauthorization of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the continuation of adequate funding of critical programs that provide resources for the provision of local workforce programs; OPPOSE redefining local workforce development board member participation to increase percentage of union representation due to the shortfall of union representation in the state.

BACKGROUND: On May 17, 2022, The U.S. House of Representative passed H.R. 7309, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2022. The bill is presently awaiting Senate action. This bill aims to reauthorize and strengthen the primary federal law—the WIOA of 2014—governing the nation’s workforce development system.

As passed by the U.S. House, H.R. 7309 would:

- Fully fund WIOA programs by authorizing \$78 billion over six years, which will allow the workforce system to train one million workers per year by 2028;
- Establish a permanent Department of Labor program to help individuals released from incarceration transition back to employment and access sustainable career pathways;
- Expand summer and year-round jobs programs for youth;
- Strengthen the quality of the Jobs Corps program;
- Codify partnerships between employers and community colleges to provide high-quality job training;
- Strengthen industry and sector partnerships to better meet the needs of both employers and job seekers; and
- Provide funding for innovative approaches to workforce development.

ANALYSIS: The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed the economy, forced millions of workers into unemployment or underemployment, and left employers with millions of unfilled jobs. Increasing workforce support services, providing greater flexibility in the use of federal workforce development funds, retooling current performance metrics, and expanding access to job training programs will encourage individuals and employers to adapt and become more competitive in today’s marketplace.

Section 207 of H.R. 7309 make various changes to the membership requirements of local workforce development boards by, among other things, increasing the potential share of labor organizations on local boards to 30 percent. However, in regions of the state, this requirement may affect board membership/participation due to the lack of unions and negatively impact the operations of local workforce development boards in certain areas of the state. Therefore, this particular change should be opposed.



FISCAL IMPACT: Indeterminate.

FAC STAFF NOTES:

- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
 - FED-PP-03 was recommended for adoption by the committee.

- [The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) was enacted by Congress in 2014. The Act consists of five titles that authorize the following programs, services, and activities:
 - *TITLE I, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:*
Title I establishes WIOA’s state and local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) and the one-stop career centers known as American Job Centers (AJCs). Localities work through AJCs to provide career services to residents. Title I additionally specifies how federal WIOA funds flow down to states and localities.
 - *TITLE II, ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACT:*
Administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Title II programs serve individuals with barriers to employment, including immigrants, English language-learners and low-income individuals. Title II funding supports adult literacy and basic skills training for employment and postsecondary education.
 - *TITLE III, AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT:*
Title III integrates the federal Employment Service (ES) into WIOA’s one-stop delivery systems, or American Job Centers (AJCs). Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA), ES offices within AJCs offer resources such as job search assistance, career placement and reemployment support for Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants.
 - *TITLE IV, VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES:*
Title IV defines how U.S. Department of Education (ED) funding is allotted to states. This title also authorizes funding for vocational rehabilitation services, with a special focus on improving economic prospects and independent living opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Services may include career coaching, interpreter assistance and funding for books and tuition.
 - *TITLE V, GENERAL PROVISIONS:*
Title V outlines WIOA program administration and federal and state data reporting requirements.

- Under the Act states and counties administer six core WIOA programs, which include adult services, dislocated workers services, youth services, adult education and literacy, rehabilitation services, and services to jobseekers and employers under the Wagner-Peyser Act.

- Federal funding is allocated to the state’s designated workforce agency (DEO) through a noncompetitive formula grant. The designated state agency distributes federal dollars to local workforce development boards. The funding formula considers factors such as a state’s total population, unemployment rate, poverty level, and WIOA resources necessary to serve a state’s residents.

- States are required to submit a unified or combined state plan to USDOL outlining a four-year strategy for implementing the state’s workforce development system. The Act further requires local workforce development boards (WDBs) submit a four-year plan to the designated state



agency which, among other things, describes the local area's workforce development strategic plan and funding priorities.

- The WIOA expired on September 30, 2020 and has not been reauthorized; although, Congress has continued to fund the workforce development programs.

SUBMITTING COUNTY AND CONTACT: Pasco County/Commissioner Kathryn Starkey

ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: CUA

BOARD SUPPORT: N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE: No

PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE: Yes