



NARC

Building Regional Communities

A Brief Summary

Workforce Investment Act of 2013, HR 798

General Information:

- Democratic proposal to reauthorize the 1998 Workforce Investment Act, which has not been reauthorized since 2003.
- Aims to improve the current workforce system to build partnerships among employers, educators and the workforce to address a growing skills gap.
- Focuses on realigning training efforts with health care, advanced manufacturing and other high-growth sectors to fill the 3.6 million unfilled positions.

Specifics:

Strengthening the Workforce

- Requires states to create a comprehensive plan coordinating job training and education services and mandates that state and local Workforce Investment Boards to focus on career advancement opportunities for workers.
- Expands on-the-job and incumbent worker training programs and offers increased flexibility for training programs to account for worker skill level.
- Mandates co-location for one-stop centers and employment services, clarifies role of employment services, and allows providers to contract directly with community colleges on training efforts. .

Changes to Performance Measures and Reporting

- Establishes common program reporting metrics and provides job seekers access to program performance evaluations. Adds performance measurements for employer evaluation.
- Evaluates not only positive outcomes – employment – but also positive indicators toward employment such as educational attainment and training achievement. Adjusts these measures to account for demographic differences in harder-to-serve areas.
- Adjusts funding structure to separate training, infrastructure and employee-employer service funds. Mandates that states set aside specific training funds.
- Creates a WIA identifier so employees and employers know when they are accessing WIA-funded programs.

Promoting Innovation and Best Practices

- Codifies the Workforce Investment Fund. Promotes creative approaches to industry sector partnerships and regional approaches to workforce advancement, training an alignment with industry needs.
- Provides capacity –building support to encourage partnerships, collaboration, planning and encourages expedited resource alignment in high-growth sectors.
- Expands information sharing between DOL and local and state governments.

Community Colleges, Adult Education and Job Training

- Authorizes funding for the Community College to Career Fund to expand training opportunities for high-growth sectors. Supports entrepreneurial and small-business advancement opportunities.
- Eases community college contracting framework and encourages a common credentialing system for the workforce investment system.
- Supports and increases adult educational opportunities for post-secondary advancement, workplace and basic skills training, literacy and English-literacy services, and technology training.

Youth and Individuals with Disabilities

- Expands access to work experience programs for youth, increases age of eligibility and income threshold for disadvantaged youth, and focuses on youth innovation programs.
- Expands services for supported employment for and increases outreach to employers of individuals with disabilities.
- Codifies the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the Department of Labor.