

M A R Y L A N D

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

House Bill 757

Task Force on Development of Educational Programs to Aid Unemployed State Residents

June 20, 2012

Coordinators

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Committee Members

A list of members is on the back page.

Background

During the 2011 Legislative Session, Delegate Keiffer Mitchell introduced legislation targeted to developing educational programs to aid unemployed state residents. The legislation was passed, and became Maryland law. HB 757 charged the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) with establishment of an advisory committee that would:

- Identify the workforce needs and the education and training requirements of employment fields with available or growing opportunities;
- Identify the workforce and education and training needs of regions of the State that have high levels of unemployment;
- Examine the use of Individual Educational Training Accounts (ITAs) offered by other states that assist state residents in paying for education and training programs;
- Make recommendations regarding ITA pilot program;
- Recommend a pathway for academic career and employment programs.

At the completion of this work, the GWIB is to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

The legislation determined the members of the committee to be:

- Institutions of post-secondary education located in the State, including one from a four-year school, one from a community college, and one from a private career school;
- The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation;
- The Department of Business and Economic Development;
- Governor's Workforce Investment Board;
- Businesses and industries located in the State, including one biotechnology industry;
- Two State labor organizations.

Meeting

To maximize the time of Task Force members, the GWIB staff researched the issues in the legislation, and wrote a draft report prior to the meeting, which was held at the GWIB offices on June 11, 2012. The draft report was reviewed and considerable discussion took place

concerning: the use of ITAs; the list of approved training programs; barriers to employment, as well as barriers to placing programs on the approved list; the target audience of this legislation, and career pathways. Several changes to the report were made and recommendations were put forth that are included in the final report.

- The inclusion of an overview of the Career Pathways models in the report and a plan to move the unemployed through training and into jobs.
- The need for DLLR to work with MHEC in revisiting the method in which potential programs are approved for the training list. These programs require qualification and ongoing certification based on tracking of successful completers of the educational activities, courses or programs. This has proven to be a considerable burden on programs and the number of programs on the approval list has been declining.
- The Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) has the potential to effectively address this barrier of tracking. The MLDS will considerably enhance the ability of state organizations to track students from educational programs into the workforce. The centralization of follow-up tracking of students passing through these workforce training programs with the MLDS Center will allow the State to this task for a fraction of the current cost, relieve the education providers of a burden, and eliminate the barrier to the inclusion of critical education programs in the WIA and ITA programs.

The report has been completed and sent to the Task Force for review prior to submission to the Legislature.

Next Steps

The GWIB will reconvene this group in order to follow up on the recommendations of the report. The legislation calls for this Task Force to produce an annual report to the Legislature.

Task Force Members

- Delegate Keiffer Mitchell Maryland State Legislature
- Scott R. Jensen Interim Secretary
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR)
- Tina Bjarekull President
Maryland Independent Colleges & Universities
- Frank Chaney Chairman of the Board
Chaney Enterprises
- Trudy Chara Special Assistant
DLLR, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL)
- Ed Gillespie President
Maryland Association of Private Colleges & Career Schools
- Dean Kendall Associate Director for Workforce Development
Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
- Andrew Larson National Project Coordinator
International Union of Painters & Allied Trades

- Marlene Lieb Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Training
Harford Community College
- Fred Mason, Jr. President
Maryland State & District of Columbia AFL-CIO
- Ben Passmore Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance
University System of Maryland
- Angela Thornton Office of Strategic Initiatives
Department of Business and Economic Development
- Kathleen Weiss Executive Director, Biotech Institute of Maryland, Inc.