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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Felag, Conley, Algieri, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 28 of the General Laws entitled "LABOR AND LABOR  
2 RELATIONS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 45.1

4 STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

5 **28-45.1-1. Legislative findings.** -- The general assembly finds and declares:

6 (1) That the economic future of Rhode Island and the prosperity of its citizens depend  
7 upon the ability of businesses in Rhode Island to compete in the world economy; and

8 (2) That a well-educated and highly-skilled workforce provides businesses in Rhode  
9 Island with a competitive edge critical for their success; and

10 (3) That it is essential to develop a workforce system that provides needed workforce  
11 skills, sets high performance standards, implements best practices, cooperates with system  
12 partners, and coordinates a wide range of workforce investment resources.

13 **28-45.1-2. Workforce investment board established.** – (a) As a result of the legislative  
14 findings set forth in § 28-45.1-1, there is established a state workforce investment board  
15 ("board"), in conformity with the requirements of the Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998,  
16 29 U.S.C. section 2801 et seq. The state workforce investment board shall be the principal  
17 workforce policy organization for the state.

18 (b) The membership of the board shall consist of nineteen (19) members appointed by

1 the governor with the advise and consent of the Senate; nine (9) of whom shall be representatives  
2 from the employer community, in a manner that is representative of employers of different sizes  
3 and sectors, including the nonprofit sector; four (4) members of whom shall be representing  
4 organized labor; two (2) members of whom shall be representing community-based  
5 organizations; one of whom shall be a representative of the post-secondary education system; one  
6 of whom shall be the director of the department of labor and training, one of whom shall be the  
7 commissioner of education, and one of whom shall be the executive director of the commerce  
8 corporation.

9 (c) The governor shall select the chair of the board, who shall serve in such office at the  
10 pleasure of the governor.

11 (d) The board may establish an executive committee composed of members appointed by  
12 the chair. The board may delegate to the executive committee any of the powers of the board  
13 except those powers which are required by law to be exercised by the board. The chair may also  
14 appoint ad hoc committees, workgroups or task forces to assist the board as appropriate.

15 (e) The board shall hold publicly-announced meetings at such times and places as it  
16 deems necessary. The meetings shall be open and accessible to the general public in accordance  
17 with state law. A quorum shall consist of ten (10) members present and voting.

18 (f) The board may promulgate bylaws, consistent with law and with this chapter,  
19 governing its organization and procedure.

20 **28-45.1-3. Powers and duties.** -- (a) The board shall assist the governor in:

21 (1) Developing a state workforce investment plan: a strategic plan including goals and  
22 strategies for serving the state's existing and emerging workforce utilizing all state and federal  
23 workforce development programs.

24 (2) Promoting and coordinating private sector involvement of partnerships among state  
25 agencies, the business community and the board.

26 (3) Developing a statewide system of activities that are funded under the WIA or carried  
27 out through the One-Stop delivery system, including:

28 (i) Assuring coordination and nonduplication among the programs and activities carried  
29 out by One-Stop partners;

30 (ii) Establishing a workforce development interagency council consisting of the directors  
31 of state departments responsible for implementing federal and state workforce investment  
32 activities to ensure the coordination of all available programs and initiatives;

33 (iii) Reviewing local workforce investment plans;

34 (iv) Designating local workforce investment areas;

1           (v) Developing allocation formulas for the distribution of funds for adult employment and  
2 training activities and youth activities to local areas;

3           (vi) Developing comprehensive state performance measures, including state adjusted  
4 levels of performance, to assess the effectiveness of the workforce investment activities in the  
5 state;

6           (vii) Preparing the annual report to the United States secretary of labor described in WIA;

7           (viii) Developing the statewide employment statistics system;

8           (ix) Developing an application for incentive grants;

9           (x) Determining which workforce investment boards are redundant and recommending  
10 which should be eliminated;

11           (xi) Carrying out the responsibilities of the local board as outlined in WIA; and

12 (xii) Addressing any other issue requiring input from the board under the provisions of WIA.

13           (b) The board, when acting concert with the state human resource investment council,  
14 shall conform it activities and procedures to Chapter 102 of title 42 and Chapter 42 of title 28,  
15 and also shall approve a budget, manage, and otherwise provide oversight of the Rhode Island job  
16 development fund to ensure that all programs and expenditures are in compliance with the  
17 approved state plan.

18           **28-45.1-4. Personal and administration. --** (a) The department of labor and training is  
19 hereby designated as the administrative entity responsible for administration and management of  
20 the board. The department's one stop career center system is also the primary deliverer of  
21 workforce development services. The department is authorized to act in concert with the  
22 governor's WIA liaison in the planning, administration, coordination, and oversight functions of  
23 the workforce system assigned to the governor. The department shall provide staff support for the  
24 board.

25           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT  
BOARD

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1           This act would legislatively establish a state workforce investment board consisting of  
2           nineteen (19) members appointed by the governor with the advise and consent of the Senate,  
3           formerly created by executive order 05-18 dated September 22, 2005. The board would assist the  
4           governor in implementing and conforming to the requirements of the Federal Workplace  
5           Investment Act of 1998.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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