Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE Revised

Senate Bill 133 (Chairman, Finance Committee)

(By Request – Departmental – Labor, Licensing and Regulation)

Finance Economic Matters

Governor's Workforce Investment Board - Membership

This departmental bill clarifies that the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) must comply with the membership requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor regulations; removes the limitation of no more than 40 board members; and provides that, to the extent practicable, the board's composition reflect the race, gender, and geographic diversity of the population of the State.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for additional board members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.

Analysis

Current Law: GWIB may have no more than 40 members appointed by the Governor.

Background: GWIB was established in 1983 as the Governor's Employment and Training Council. This independent agency was later transferred to the Department of Economic and Employment Development. In 1993 it was again made an independent agency, assumed the duties of the State Council on Vocational-Technical Education, and began serving as Maryland's human resource investment council under the federal Job Training Partnership Act. In 1998 the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) mandated the existence of state-level GWIB-type organizations to implement provisions of federal worker training programs. A 1998 executive order renamed the entity the Governor's Workforce Investment Board. In 2003 the independent agency was transferred into DLLR, which is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the State's workforce development system.

DLLR asserts that WIA provisions related to state board member requirements cannot be met unless the limitation to 40 members is removed from State law. However, Legislative Services' review of WIA determined that while there is no limitation on the number of board members there also is no requirement that the number of members be unlimited. WIA simply sets out categories of members required to be appointed to the state board.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department

of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 25, 2005

mll/ljm Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 29, 2005

Analysis by: Karen S. Benton Direct Inquiries to: (410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510