

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 441 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY GORDNER, BARLOTTA, ALLOWAY, VOGEL, MCGARRIGLE, AUMENT, VULAKOVICH, WARD, YUDICHAK, SMITH, BOSCOLA, SCHWANK AND TEPLITZ, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114),
 2 entitled, as amended, "An act establishing a unified
 3 workforce investment system; restructuring certain
 4 administrative functions, procedures and entities;
 5 transferring workforce development functions of Commonwealth
 6 agencies; establishing the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment
 7 Board; providing for critical job training grants, for
 8 guarantees for program quality and performance for workforce
 9 development programs, for workforce leadership grants and for
 10 industry partnerships; establishing the Keystone Works
 11 Program; and authorizing local workforce investment boards,"
 12 establishing the Workforce Development Commission and
 13 providing for its powers and duties.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. The act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114),
 17 known as the Workforce Development Act, is amended by adding a
 18 chapter to read:

19 CHAPTER 7-B

20 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

21 Section 701-B. Workforce Development Commission.

22 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established the
 23 Workforce Development Commission.

1 (b) Purpose.--The commission shall review and make
2 recommendations related, but not limited to:

3 (1) Improving the workforce development system in this
4 Commonwealth.

5 (2) Identifying and expanding educational opportunities
6 that are linked to occupations that are in demand by
7 employers in this Commonwealth.

8 (3) Determining what Federal and State funding sources
9 are available for workforce development and how to implement
10 best practices Statewide to maximize the use of those funds.

11 (c) Membership.--

12 (1) The commission shall consist of the following
13 members:

14 (i) Three legislators from each of the four
15 legislative caucuses, to be appointed by the President
16 pro tempore of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the
17 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and
18 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

19 (ii) Three individuals appointed by the Governor
20 from within the Governor's Administration.

21 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate, the
22 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of
24 Representatives shall each designate a chair from their
25 selected delegations to lead the commission.

26 (d) Initial meeting.--The commission shall hold its first
27 meeting within 45 days of the effective date of this section,
28 regardless of whether the Governor or all legislative caucuses
29 have actually approved members to the commission.

30 (e) Meetings.--The commission shall hold meetings at the

1 call of all of the chairs.

2 (f) Expenses.--The members may not receive compensation for
3 their services but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel
4 and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the
5 performance of their duties as members of the commission.

6 (g) Administrative support.--The General Assembly shall
7 provide administrative support, meeting space and any other
8 assistance required by the commission to carry out its duties
9 under this section in cooperation with the departments. The
10 departments shall provide the commission with data, research and
11 other information upon request by the commission.

12 (h) Quorum.--A quorum constituting 10 members of the
13 commission who are present and in person shall be required to
14 take any action related to powers and duties of the commission
15 in making recommendations, approving draft legislation or
16 regulations or approving the commission's report on its findings
17 and recommendations under subsection (j).

18 (i) Voting.--An affirmative vote of 10 members of the
19 commission who are present and in person shall be required to
20 make recommendations, approve draft legislation or regulations
21 or approve the commission's report on its findings and
22 recommendations under subsection (j).

23 (j) Powers and duties.--The commission shall have all of the
24 following powers and duties:

25 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations related
26 to workforce development in this Commonwealth.

27 (2) Consult with and utilize experts to assist the
28 commission in carrying out the duties under this subsection.

29 (3) Receive input from interested parties, including,
30 but not limited to, local workforce development entities,

1 educational institutions, employers, employees, the
2 unemployed and representatives from the departments.

3 (4) Hold public hearings in different regions of this
4 Commonwealth.

5 (5) Review and consider workforce development strategies
6 utilized throughout the United States.

7 (6) Review the administration of State and regional
8 workforce development programs and services to determine if
9 improvements can be made and make recommendations to
10 implement those improvements.

11 (7) Determine best practices in workforce development
12 programs throughout this Commonwealth and make
13 recommendations on how other entities should implement
14 similar practices.

15 (8) Identify educational programs that align with the
16 needs of employers in this Commonwealth and make
17 recommendations on how other educational institutions should
18 implement similar programs.

19 (9) Draft proposed regulations and proposed legislation
20 based on the commission's findings.

21 (10) Issue a report of the commission's findings and
22 recommendations to the Governor, the President pro tempore of
23 the Senate, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
24 Senate, the Community, Economic and Recreational Development
25 Committee, the Education Committee and the Labor and Industry
26 Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of
28 the House of Representatives, the Commerce Committee, the
29 Education Committee and the Labor and Industry Committee of
30 the House of Representatives, the Secretary of Community and

1 Economic Development, the Secretary of Education and the
2 Secretary of Labor and Industry not later than one year after
3 the initial meeting of the commission.

4 (k) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
5 works and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
6 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Commission." The Workforce Development Commission
8 established under this section.

9 "Departments." The Department of Community and Economic
10 Development, the Department of Education and the Department of
11 Labor and Industry.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.