

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 184
January 29, 2015**

INITIAL DESIGNATION OF LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Background

Under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), Washington recognized 12 Workforce Development Areas. Each area seats a Workforce Development Council, which, in consultation with chief local elected officials, have overseen WIA Title I-B activities, coordinated local area workforce development services, and provided outreach to employers. The 12 Councils have used their leadership to link with local economic development strategies. Each has operated under a Governor-approved local plan that included a strategic plan to assess local employment opportunities and skills needs. They have set goals, objectives, and strategies for their local workforce development system that have been consistent with the state's strategic goals.

On June 22, 2014, President Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law. The Governor designated the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) to be the State Workforce Board under WIOA. The Workforce Board adopted a four-committee structure and workplan to undertake implementation of this new Act, and submitted this information to the Governor's Office.

While the full implementation of the Act must be completed by June 30, 2016, there are many components that must be finalized by the end of June 2015. One of those components is the designation of local Workforce Development Areas.

The Act allows the Governor to approve a request for initial designation as a local area from any area designated as a local area for purpose of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The initial designation can continue for up to two years after WIOA is enacted. This timing helps ensure that any recommended subsequent changes to current local areas will be made with adequate opportunity for local economic and labor market data collection and analysis, and for consultations with chief local elected officials, local boards, and the public.

The issue of local governance will be undertaken by one of the WIOA subcommittees. However, to ensure local areas have authority under WIOA to proceed with local planning required by the new Act, the WIOA Steering Committee passed a recommendation to the Workforce Board to ask the Governor to approve initial WIOA local area designation to all 12 of the current Workforce Development Areas.

Board Action: The Board will consider a letter of recommendation to the Governor's Office, requesting initial designation as local Workforce Development Areas, under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, be granted to the 12 Workforce Development Areas currently in operation under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

WHEREAS, The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) is designated as the state's Workforce Board; and

WHEREAS, The Governor directed the Workforce Board to ensure that implementation recommendations are made using a data-driven evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, Changes in local Workforce Development Areas will require considerable data collection and analysis as well as input from chief local elected officials, local boards, and the public; and

WHEREAS, The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act allows the Governor to approve a request for initial designation as a local area from any area that was designated as a local area for purposes of the Workforce Investment of Act of 1998;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Workforce Board recommends the Governor approve a request for initial designation as local Workforce Development Areas to the 12 Workforce Development Areas currently in operation under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.