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Act No. 146 (H.707). An act relating to revising the delivery and governance of the Vermont workforce system

Subjects: Workforce development; State Workforce Development Board

This act creates the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development, amends the membership and oversight of the State Workforce Development Board, creates a task force to study and develop a data management model for workforce-related programs, and authorizes a special oversight committee to produce recommendations on statutory language related to workforce leadership.

Sec. 1 of this act creates the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development along with two staff members, including the Executive Director of the Office. The Executive Director will coordinate efforts of workforce development in the State and oversee the affairs of the State Workforce Development Board, among other duties. The Governor has the authority to appoint the Executive Director with advice and consent from the Senate. Sec. 1 also amends the makeup and management of the State Workforce Development Board. Membership on the Board is changed from over 60 members to 28 members, with a majority of those members being business representatives as required by federal law. Sec. 1 creates the Executive Committee of the State Workforce Development Board which is made up of a small number of Board members to oversee the affairs of the Board.

Sec. 2 amends dates in session law to reflect changes made elsewhere in this act and with the work performed by the Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development.

Sec. 3 creates a task force wherein the Executive Director of Workforce Strategy and Development will consult with the Executive Committee of the State Workforce Development Board and the Agency of Digital Services to develop a data trust as outlined in the final report of the Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development.

Sec. 4 reauthorizes the Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development to review the language in 10 V.S.A. § 540 where the leadership and duties of workforce and training are set forth. The Committee will also consult with the Department of Human Resources to develop qualifications to suggest to the Governor for the position of Executive Director of Workforce Strategy and Development.

Sec. 5 sets forth a transition period for the State Workforce Development Board to reflect changes made to it in this act.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 3, 2024