

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 526

2 INTRODUCED BY G. KIPP

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A 3-YEAR PILOT PROJECT FOR EXPANDING
5 WORKFORCE SERVICES TO HIGH-POVERTY COUNTIES; DIRECTING THE STATE WORKFORCE
6 INVESTMENT BOARD TO OVERSEE THE PILOT PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND
7 REPORTING; AMENDING SECTIONS 53-2-1202, 53-2-1203, AND 53-2-1207, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE."

9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11

12 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Pilot employment project for high-poverty counties.** (1) (a) For fiscal
13 years 2016 through 2018, the department of labor and industry shall establish a pilot project to provide, through
14 its one-stop delivery system under this part, an intensive expansion of services, particularly employment services,
15 to three locations in high-poverty counties currently not served by a one-stop center.

16 (b) The state workforce investment board provided for in 53-2-1203 shall consult with the department
17 of labor and industry and select by January 1, 2016, the three locations for the pilot project.

18 (c) The state workforce investment board shall oversee the pilot project and set specific objectives based
19 on the guidelines in [section 3] to meet the goal of reducing by 1 percentage point or more each year the
20 unemployment rate in high-poverty counties.

21 (2) The pilot project must include for each selected location a satellite office for the one-stop delivery
22 system that is equipped with internet access and at least one computer. The office may be affiliated with a local
23 government community center or a tribal employment or tribal employment rights office.

24 (3) An employee of the department of labor and industry's one-stop delivery system shall staff the pilot
25 project office at regular hours each weekday to directly assist in employment counseling and job training.

26 (4) The employee assigned to the satellite office as described in subsection (3) shall:

27 (a) seek to increase apprenticeships in the high-poverty county;

28 (b) work with local eligible training providers, as defined in 53-2-1216, to better match job seekers with
29 potential job offerings;

30 (c) provide outreach to businesses to help align job seekers and job providers; and

1 (d) collaborate with other regional one-stop centers to assess common problems and possible solutions
2 to joblessness in high-poverty counties.

3

4 **Section 2.** Section 53-2-1202, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"53-2-1202. Definitions.** For the purposes of this part, unless the context otherwise requires, the
6 following definitions apply:

7 (1) "Act" means the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Public Law 105-220 (29 U.S.C. 2801, et
8 seq.).

9 (2) "High-poverty county" has the meaning provided in 90-1-201.

10 ~~(2)(3)~~ "Local board" means a local workforce investment board provided for in 53-2-1204.

11 ~~(3)(4)~~ "One-stop center" means one or more entities designated or certified under section 121(d) of the
12 Act (29 U.S.C. 2841(d)).

13 ~~(4)(5)~~ "One-stop delivery system" means a system under which entities responsible for administering
14 separate workforce investment, educational, and other human resource programs and funding sources
15 collaborate to create a seamless system of service delivery to enhance access to the programs' services and
16 improve long-term employment outcomes for individuals receiving assistance.

17 ~~(5)(6)~~ "State board" means the state workforce investment board provided for in 53-2-1203.

18 ~~(6)(7)~~ "Workforce investment area" means a local area designated by the governor in accordance with
19 section 116 of the Act (29 U.S.C. 2831)."

20

21 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Pilot project objectives.** As part of the goal of reducing unemployment
22 rates in high-poverty counties, the state workforce investment board shall:

23 (1) meet with local economic development organizations, tribal business officials, tribal colleges, state
24 postsecondary schools, and interested businesses on a regular basis to determine the particular needs of
25 businesses in high-poverty counties and potential employees' needs;

26 (2) develop an action plan in conjunction with the department of labor and industry to determine if
27 additional staffing, apprenticeships, college coursework, or other personnel and training would improve
28 employment in high-poverty counties;

29 (3) report in each biennium to the economic affairs interim committee and the state-tribal relations
30 committee on progress toward improving employment in high-poverty counties; and

1 (4) propose legislation, if any is needed, to address areas determined to be insufficient for addressing
2 the needs of high-poverty counties.

3

4 **Section 4.** Section 53-2-1203, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"53-2-1203. State workforce investment board -- membership -- duties.** (1) There is a state
6 workforce investment board.

7 (2) The state board consists of:

8 (a) the governor or a person designated by the governor to act on behalf of the governor;

9 (b) subject to 5-5-234, two members of the house of representatives, one from the majority party and
10 one from the minority party, and two members of the senate, one from the majority party and one from the
11 minority party, appointed by the presiding officer of each respective chamber; and

12 (c) individuals appointed by the governor, including:

13 (i) representatives of businesses located in Montana who:

14 (A) are owners of businesses, chief executive or operating officers, and other business executives or
15 employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority, including business members of local boards; ~~and~~

16 (B) represent businesses with employment opportunities that reflect the employment opportunities in
17 Montana; and

18 (C) operate in high-poverty counties;

19 (ii) chief elected officials of local government;

20 (iii) representatives of labor organizations;

21 (iv) representatives of individuals and organizations who have experience with respect to youth activities;

22 (v) representatives of individuals and organizations who have experience and expertise in the delivery
23 of workforce investment activities;

24 (vi) representatives of the state agencies who are responsible for the programs and activities that are
25 carried out by the one-stop centers, including but not limited to:

26 (A) the department of labor and industry;

27 (B) the department of public health and human services;

28 (C) the office of the commissioner of higher education; and

29 (D) the office of public instruction;

30 (vii) at least one representative of military veterans;

1 (viii) at least one representative of a tribal employment or tribal employment rights office; and
 2 ~~(viii)(ix)~~ other representatives whom the governor may designate.

3 (3) The selection and appointment of members of the state board must follow the nominating provisions
 4 of section 111 of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 2821.

5 (4) The governor shall appoint enough individuals described in subsection (2)(c)(i) so that those persons
 6 compose a majority of the membership of the state board.

7 ~~The~~ In addition to the appointment provided under subsection (2)(c)(viii), the governor shall consider
 8 the special needs of Montana's hard-to-serve Indian population and the state's relationship with tribal
 9 governments when making appointments to the state board.

10 (6) The state board shall perform the functions described in section 111 of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 2821."
 11

12 **Section 5.** Section 53-2-1207, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"53-2-1207. Coordination of services.** (1) The state board shall assist the governor in developing and
 14 continuously improving the statewide system of activities that are provided within the state workforce investment
 15 systems by:

16 (a) developing linkages in order to ensure coordination among the programs described in section 121(b)
 17 of the Act (29 U.S.C. 2841(b)); and

18 (b) reviewing local plans, which include a description of the one-stop delivery system to be established
 19 or designated in the local area.

20 (2) Local boards shall coordinate services provided to Indians with providers offering services pursuant
 21 to ~~section 166 of the Act (29 U.S.C. 2911)~~ and providers offering services pursuant to ~~the Indian Employment,~~
 22 ~~Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992, Public Law 102-477 (25 U.S.C. 3401).~~

23 (3) Through July 1, 2018, a local board serving a location selected by the state board for the pilot project
 24 shall designate a service provider to participate in the pilot project."
 25

26 NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
 27 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
 28 Chippewa tribe.

29
 30 NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 and 3] are intended to be codified

1 as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 2, part 12, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 2, part 12, apply to
2 [sections 1 and 3].

3

4 NEW SECTION. **Section 8. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

5

- END -