

Workforce Investment Board

<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/gov2/css/boards/workforce/default.asp>

Federal Law Citation: 29 U.S.C. 2821

Statutory Citation: Section 53-2-1203, MCA.

Passage of the Workforce Investment Act by Congress in August 1998 resulted in a transformation of job training and employment services, effectively replacing the Job Training Partnership Act system. The purpose of the Act, as provided in 29 U.S.C. 2811, is to "provide workforce investment activities . . . that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation". The Act further states in 29 U.S.C. 2821 that the "Governor of a State shall establish a State workforce investment board to assist in the development of the State plan" and to carry out other functions.

The Board provides broad guidance and oversight to Montana's two local Workforce Investment Boards. The State Board conducts its work through committees, and has established the following committees for the 2003-2004 interim: Executive Committee, Accountability Committee, Regulatory Committee, and the Economic Development and Business Retention Committee. The Board is staffed from the Commissioner's Office of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

Membership

The Board must include the Governor or the Governor's designee; two members of the House of Representatives, each from a different political party, and two members of the Senate, each from a different political party, appointed by the presiding officer of each respective chamber; and gubernatorial appointees who are business owners, business executives, elected officials of local governments, representatives of labor organizations, individuals with experience in youth activities, experts in the delivery of workforce investment activities, state agency officials responsible for managing one-stop centers, and any other appropriate representatives, as determined by the Governor.

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