

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2772

By: Auffet

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to workforce development; creating the Council for Workforce and Economic Development; stating purposes of Council; providing for coordination of activities; establishing Workforce Solutions Staff Team; imposing duties upon Council; providing for membership of Council; providing for appointments; providing for meetings; providing for travel reimbursement; prohibiting direct or indirect profit resulting from transactions; providing for support through certain available funds; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9010 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Council for Workforce and Economic Development. Pursuant to the federal Workforce Investment Act, the Council will guide the development of a comprehensive and coordinated workforce development system for the state and monitor its operation. In addition, the Council will review and make recommendations that will align the workforce system, including education, with the economic development goals of the state for the purpose of creating workforce and economic development systems that are integrated and will provide Oklahoma a competitive advantage in a global economy.

B. Activities of the Council shall be coordinated by the Secretary of Commerce and Tourism and directed by the Deputy Secretary of Commerce for Workforce Development, or their successors in office or function. Administrative and staffing support for the

Council shall be coordinated by the office of Workforce Solutions within the Department of Commerce.

C. There is hereby established the Workforce Solutions Staff Team. This interagency team will be comprised of executive level staff from all workforce, education and economic development agencies of the state for the purpose of providing staff support to the Council and to create efficiencies, eliminate duplication, and eliminate barriers to jointly providing a service delivery system. Other members may be included on this team as the Governor, Secretary of Commerce or Deputy Secretary of Commerce may deem necessary to accomplish this goal.

D. In the development, monitoring and aligning of the workforce system with economic development, the Council shall:

1. Perform the duties required of the state governance board by the federal Workforce Investment Act;

2. Identify the human resource investment needs of Oklahoma business and industry, together with those of the citizens of the state, so that each might respond to and meet the needs of the others and thus together build a robust, diversified economy;

3. Review and evaluate workforce development programs within the state, formulate recommendations to increase their efficiency and effectiveness, eliminate duplication, and align with economic goals. Recommendations shall be communicated to the Governor, Legislature, state and federal government agencies and appropriate individuals and entities within the private sector;

4. Increase academic capability and technical skills within the state workforce and foster lifelong learning among the citizens of Oklahoma;

5. Strengthen collaboration among institutions which provide education and training services, government agencies which coordinate employment and other human resource investment

activities, and Oklahoma business and industry to create a seamless system to nurture healthy economic development; and

6. Enhance rural economic development capability and capacity, giving particular attention to regional collaboration and partnering.

E. Membership of the Council shall include representatives of private employers who reflect projected and desired business and industry base of Oklahoma and public officials from agencies which provide programs and services related to workforce, education and economic development. All Council members shall be in positions to influence policy and hiring decisions within their organizations. Initial appointments to the Council shall conform to the following described schedule:

1. A majority of the Council shall come from described private sector employers;

2. State officials shall include incumbents or designees of the following named offices, or their successors in office or function:

- a. the Governor,
- b. two members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore,
- c. two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker,
- d. the Secretary of Commerce and Tourism,
- e. the Secretary of Education,
- f. the Secretary of Human Services,
- g. the Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
- h. the Director of Career and Technology Education,
- i. the State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
- j. the Executive Director of the Employment Security Commission, and

k. the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services;

3. Two members from organizations with experience in the delivery of workforce services, including community colleges or other community-based workforce service organizations;

4. Two members from organizations or individuals that have experience with respect to youth activities;

5. Two members that are chief elected officials from a city and county;

6. Two members that represent labor organizations; and

7. Additional members, at the discretion and pleasure of the Governor, may be appointed representing:

- a. local welfare agencies,
- b. public housing agencies,
- c. administrators of programs which receive federal or state human resources funding,
- d. representative of a Local Workforce Board Chairs Association,
- e. entities with special knowledge and qualifications regarding special educational and career development needs of hard-to-serve individuals,
- f. state and local economic development representatives,
- g. juvenile justice programs,
- h. state human resources organization,
- i. representatives of tourism, agriculture, corrections and transportation,
- j. representatives of Oklahoma tribes or nations, and
- k. representatives of minorities in Oklahoma.

F. Private sector members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor for a two-year term beginning at the expiration of any term created as a result of Executive Order No. 2005-27, and may be reappointed. In addition, private members may

be removed from office for failure to attend three consecutive Council meetings. Chair of the Council shall be from the private sector and shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

G. The Council shall meet at such times and places as it deems appropriate. Members shall serve without compensation. Council members employed by a state agency shall be reimbursed travel expenses related to their service on the Council as authorized by state law by their respective state agency. Legislative members of the Council shall be reimbursed by their respective houses for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes for meetings conducted during a legislative interim. Remaining Council members shall also be reimbursed travel expenses related to their service on the Council by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as authorized by state law.

H. No member of the Council shall profit, directly or indirectly, from any transaction with the Council.

I. The Council shall be supported by funds available to state agencies pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations. Each member of the Council whose agency qualifies pursuant to state and federal law to receive and use such funds shall assist by providing support and funding of the Council in carrying out the responsibilities.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

50-2-8876 MAH 01/19/06