

# *Update on WIA Reauthorization*

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# *House Bill vs. Senate Bill*

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## ❖ House bill

- Partisan, largely reflects Administration's proposal
- Few improvements for low-income families and low-wage workers

## ❖ Senate bill

- Reflects intensive bi-partisan process
- Includes some improvements for low-income individuals and low-wage workers

# *Adult Funding*

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## HOUSE

- ❖ Consolidates adult, dislocated worker, & Wagner-Peyser funding streams.

## SENATE

- ❖ Maintains separate adult, dislocated worker, & Wagner-Peyser funding streams.

# *One-Stop Partners*

## HOUSE

- ❖ Mandatory Partners:
  - Adds TANF
- ❖ Permissible Partners:
  - SSA employment & training programs, including Ticket-to-Work
  - Child Support
  - Programs for individuals with disabilities carried out by state agencies relating to mental health, mental retardation, and developmental disabilities, state Medicaid agencies, State Independent Living Councils, and Independent Living Centers

## SENATE

- ❖ Mandatory Partners:
  - Adds TANF
  - Requires co-location of Employment Service at one-stops
- ❖ Permissible Partners:
  - SSA employment & training programs, including Ticket-to-Work
  - SBA employment & training programs
  - Food Stamp employment & training programs (modifies current law reference)

# *Infrastructure Funding*

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## HOUSE

- ❖ **State Mechanism:**
  - Allows governors to take administrative funds from partner programs to pay for one-stop infrastructure
  - No caps on amount

## SENATE

- ❖ **Local Option:** Local entities must reach agreement on infrastructure contributions through MOU by July 1, 2004, or state mechanism applies
- ❖ **State Mechanism:**
  - Same as House but provides specified caps on contributions

# *Resources for Training*

## HOUSE

- ❖ No dedicated adult/dislocated worker funding for training
- ❖ Local boards may use 10% of funds for incumbent worker training programs

## SENATE

- ❖ No dedicated adult/dislocated worker funding for training
- ❖ Local boards may use 10% of funds for incumbent worker training programs
- ❖ Requires states to report on amount spent for core, intensive, & training services
- ❖ Incentive grants to states and locals for leveraging non-WIA resources for training
- ❖ \$10M for integrated training programs for LEPs (demonstration project)
- ❖ \$30M for high-tech skill certification pilot projects

# *Low-Income Individuals*

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## HOUSE

### ❖ Definition:

- Removes LLSIL, narrowing population who would qualify as low-income
- Adds eligibility for school lunch program

### ❖ Priority for intensive & training services:

- Given to unemployed individuals, as well as low-income individuals when local funds limited

## SENATE

### ❖ Definition:

- Retains LLSIL
- Adds eligibility for school lunch program

### ❖ Priority for intensive & training services:

- Maintains current law priority for low-income individuals when local funds limited

# *Hard-to-Serve Populations*

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## HOUSE

- ❖ No comprehensive definition of “hard-to-serve” populations, but does include references to “special populations.”

## SENATE

- ❖ Adds comprehensive definition of “hard-to-serve populations” that is then referenced for purposes of adjusting performance measures, exceptions to ITAs, etc.



# *Sequential Eligibility*

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## HOUSE

- ❖ Loosens eligibility to include “unlikely” as well as “unable” to obtain employment.
- ❖ Shifts focus from employment that leads to “self-sufficiency” to **“suitable employment”** (as defined by Governor.)

## SENATE

- ❖ Loosens eligibility to include “unlikely” as well as “unable” to obtain employment.
- ❖ Links eligibility to employment that leads to **“self-sufficiency or wages comparable or higher than previous employment.”**

# *Eligible Training Providers*

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## HOUSE

- ❖ Gives governors complete authority to develop procedures & criteria for certification, including performance- & non-performance-based criteria; no uniform standard across states

## SENATE

- ❖ Same as House, but outlines expanded list of criteria that governors must consider
- ❖ Specifies performance need only be based only on WIA-funded participants

# *Exceptions to ITAs*

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## HOUSE

- ❖ Same as current law:
  - On-the-job or customized training
  - Insufficient number of eligible providers
  - Program of demonstrated effectiveness with hard-to-serve populations

## SENATE

- ❖ Current law with the following addition:
  - Institution of higher education, in order to facilitate training of multiple individuals in high-demand occupations

# *Performance Measures (adults)*

## HOUSE

- ❖ Employment entry
- ❖ Retention at 6 months
- ❖ Earnings change at 6 months
- ❖ Adds efficiency in obtaining 3 above measures
- ❖ Eliminates credential rate & customer satisfaction measures
- ❖ Outlines economic conditions & participant characteristics on which measures should be adjusted

## SENATE

- ❖ Employment entry
- ❖ Retention at 6 months
- ❖ Earnings change (but no longer specifies at 6 months)
- ❖ Credential rate
- ❖ Customer satisfaction
- ❖ Outlines economic conditions & participant characteristics (hard-to-serve populations) on which measures should be adjusted and requires objective statistical methods for doing so

# *Work Supports*

## HOUSE

- ❖ Allowable Statewide Activities:
  - None
- ❖ Allowable Local Activities:
  - Work support activities to assist low-wage workers in retaining & enhancing employment, including assistance in accessing financial supports, provision of services during nontraditional hours, & provision of on-site child care

## SENATE

- ❖ Allowable Statewide Activities:
  - Improving coordination between employment & training activities & child support services
- ❖ Allowable Local Activities:
  - Employment & training assistance provided in conjunction with child support enforcement activities
  - Improving coordination between employment & training activities & child support services
  - Provision of accurate information in formats that are usable & understandable to all one-stop customers, relating to availability of supportive services, including child care, child support, Medicaid, SCHIP, EITC, TANF cash assistance, & other TANF-funded supportive services & transportation

# *Religious Discrimination*

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## HOUSE

- ❖ Allows recipient of WIA funds that is a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society to discriminate in employment on the basis of religion.

## SENATE

- ❖ Maintains current law: Prohibits discrimination in participation, benefits, or employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or political affiliation or belief.

# *Further Info on Proposals*

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❖Forthcoming CLASP/TWA side-by-side:  
[www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org) or  
[www.workforcealliance.org](http://www.workforcealliance.org)

❖House bill: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

- Type in bill number "H.R. 1261" to access it.

❖Senate bill: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

- Type in bill number "S. 1627" to access it.