

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Dahl at 9:00 a.m. on February 3, 2003 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Doug Patterson, Unexcused
Representative Rick Rehorn, Unexcused

Committee staff present: Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Steve Jack, Director, Employment & Training, Kansas Department of Human Resources

Others attending: See attached sheet

The Chairman called the meeting to order and reviewed the week's schedule. Minutes of January 22 and 27 were distributed. If there are any changes or corrections, please contact myself or the secretary by Friday, February 7 or they will stand as approved.

The Chairman asked if there were any bill introductions.

Steve Kearney, requested introduction of a bill on amending the pera law regarding Kansas State Troopers Association and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Representative Johnson moved and Representative Ruff seconded to accept the bill introduction. The motion carried.

Representative Novascone moved and Representative Ruff seconded to introduce a bill concerning tax supported entities and private entities. The motion carried.

Steve Jack, Director, Employment & Training, Kansas Department of Human Resources, gave a briefing on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998.

The WIA is the fourth in a nearly 40-year series of federal programs designed to provide skill assessment, job training, and job search assistance primarily to economically disadvantaged individuals, dislocated workers, and those with other barriers to employment. The previous acts in this series, the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 (MDTA), the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA), and the Job Training Partnership Act of 1982 (JTPA), along with the Workforce Investment Act all shared the continuing objective of enabling individuals to rise out of poverty, avoid the danger of falling into poverty, and providing for some way of upward mobility during their work lives to a family-sustaining income. While WIA has given states flexibility to provide some core, informational, and referral services to the broader

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population, WIA funding streams still have eligibility requirements.

There are five local workforce investment boards that determine how WIA services are provided in Kansas.

The federal government judges state performance in the administration of the WIA program with 17 performance measures. These are grouped into four major categories: (1) adult (2) youth (3) dislocated worker and (4) customer satisfaction.

The state made significant strides in the number of individuals served during the most recent program year. Kansas achieved a 37 percent increase in participant levels with a 29 percent increase in the number of adults served and a 159 percent increase in service to dislocated workers over the previous year. Driving these increased service levels was an increase in overall spending of 143 percent, returning the state to the level of service delivery achieved under JTPA.

Local Boards and their partner agencies working through the One-Stop system provided services to nearly 1,400 adult participants, 2,400 dislocated worker participants, and over 1,000 youth participants. The nearly 160 percent rise in services to the dislocated worker population was caused by a significant increase in mass layoffs and business closures. However, the increased level of services to adult and youth populations is directly attributed to the coordination efforts conducted in the year preceding the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act and the lessons learned from the first year of WIA operations.

KDHR has implemented several initiatives to acknowledge the importance of employers and bring them and their jobs into the system. KDHR mailed a marketing piece from the Governor to 63,000 Kansas employers promoting the value of the internet site, Kansas Job Link KJL. Radio and television spots were purchased through the Kansas Association of Broadcasters. The number of employers posting jobs has risen from 1,575 to 2,612 over the past four months and the number of job orders on line has risen from 2,073 to 4,235 during that same time period. On the average, each job order contains 2.5 job openings. There are more than 10,000 active job openings on KJL today. Two new publications are available, one explains the value of utilizing the internet to recruit employees and specifically how to use KJL to employers. The other publication outlines programs available to Kansas employers in (1) finding employees (2) financial incentives for hiring and training workers (3) training and education resources and (4) labor market information available through the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, KDCH, Kansas Board of Regents institutions, and the Workforce Development Centers located throughout the state ([Attachment 1](#)).

The following publications are on file in the Chairman's Office: Workforce Investment Act Annual Report, Employer Services Guide and Employer's Internet Recruiting Guide.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be February 4, 2003.