

**Senate Bill No. 354**

(By Senators Yost, Walters, Kessler (Mr. President) and Unger)

[Introduced January 15, 2014; referred to the Committee on Labor;  
and then to the Committee on Government Organization.]

**Interim  
Bill**

A BILL to amend and reenact §5B-2B-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the Workforce Investment Council to provide information and guidance to local workforce investment boards that would enable them to better educate both women and men about higher-paying jobs including jobs traditionally dominated by men.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §5B-2B-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 2B. WEST VIRGINIA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT.**

**§5B-2B-4. Duties of the Workforce Investment Council.**

(a) The council shall assist the Governor in the:

(1) Development and revision of a strategic five-year state workforce investment plan, including the establishment of an

1 overall workforce investment public agenda with goals and  
2 benchmarks of success for the state, state agencies and for local  
3 workforce investment boards;

4 (2) Development and continuous improvement of a statewide  
5 system of workforce investment activities including:

6 (A) Development of linkages in order to assure coordination  
7 and nonduplication of services and activities of workforce  
8 investment programs conducted by various entities in the state; and

9 (B) The review of strategic plans created and submitted by  
10 local workforce investment boards;

11 (3) Commenting at least annually on the measures taken by the  
12 state pursuant to the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied  
13 Technology Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §2323;

14 (4) Designation and revision of local workforce investment  
15 areas;

16 (5) Development and revision of allocation formulas for the  
17 distribution of funds for adult employment and training activities  
18 and youth activities to local areas;

19 (6) Development and continuous improvement of comprehensive  
20 state performance measures, including state-adjusted levels of  
21 performance, to assess the effectiveness of the workforce  
22 investment activities in the state;

23 (7) Preparation of the annual report to the Secretary of Labor

1 as required by the Workforce Investment Act, 29 U.S.C. §2871;

2 (8) Development and continued improvement of a statewide  
3 employment statistics system; and

4 (9) Development and revision of an application for workforce  
5 investment incentive grants.

6 (b) The council shall make a report to the Legislative  
7 Oversight Commission on Workforce Investment for Economic  
8 Development and the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education  
9 Accountability on or before November 1, of each year detailing:

10 (1) All the publicly funded workforce investment programs operating  
11 in the state, including the amount of federal and state funds  
12 expended by each program, how the funds are spent and the resulting  
13 improvement to the workforce; (2) the council's recommendations  
14 concerning future use of funds for workforce investment programs;  
15 (3) the council's analysis of operations of local workforce  
16 investment programs; (4) the council's recommendations for the  
17 establishment of an overall workforce investment public agenda with  
18 goals and benchmarks of success for the state, state agencies and  
19 for local workforce investment boards; (5) the status of one-stop  
20 system operations in the state, including all memoranda of  
21 understanding entered into by the one-stop partners and local  
22 workforce investment boards; (6) the status and outcome data  
23 regarding the council and local workforce investment boards'

1 success in linking West Virginia PROMISE scholars to employment  
2 with a West Virginia employer; and (7) any other information the  
3 commission may require.

4 (c) To aid in the report required in subsection (b) of this  
5 section, each local workforce investment board shall report  
6 annually to the council on or before September 1, of each year on  
7 the status of one-stop centers within the region each board  
8 represents, attaching all memoranda of understanding entered into  
9 with one-stop partners.

10 (d) The council shall provide information and guidance to  
11 local workforce investment boards and staff, to enable them to  
12 better educate both women and men about higher paying jobs and  
13 careers including jobs traditionally dominated by men. Such  
14 guidance shall promote services provided by the local workforce  
15 investment boards for job seekers that includes:

16 (1) Current information about compensation for jobs and  
17 careers that offer high earning potential including jobs that are  
18 traditionally dominated by men;

19 (2) Counseling, skills development and training opportunities  
20 that encourage both women and men to seek employment in such jobs;

21 (3) Referral information to employers offering such jobs; or

22 (4) Information regarding the long-term consequences,  
23 including lower social security benefits or pensions, of choosing

1 jobs that offer lower earnings potential and are traditionally  
2 dominated by women.

NOTE: The purpose of the bill is to require the Workforce Investment Council provide information to local workforce investment boards information and guidance that would help them better educate both women and men about jobs with high earning potential in jobs that are traditionally dominated by men.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

This bill was recommended for introduction and passage during the Regular Session of the Legislature by the Equal Pay Commission.