

## **B 2010-012**

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

#### **Reconstituting the Colorado Workforce Development Council**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order rescinding Executive Order B 010 99 and reconstituting the Colorado Workforce Development Council.

#### **I. Background and Purpose**

Our ability to grow the economy, support businesses and industry, and create quality jobs hinges on the knowledge, productivity, and ingenuity of our people. Over time, silos have arisen, making it difficult to align the interests of the business community with those of the workforce development and education communities. The future of our workforce system depends on our ability to create a demand-driven system by working with business to determine the upcoming workforce needs.

The Colorado Jobs Cabinet Report, released in August of 2009, created a framework for strengthening Colorado's talent development pipeline and reforming the systems that support these efforts. Colorado's success in a competitive global economy will be based on the state's ability to meet the current and future needs of Colorado employers. This alignment can be accomplished through a combination of existing workforce investment boards, a more focused outreach to business and economic development, enhanced electronic and data sharing systems, and continued emphasis on Colorado's P-20 educational system.

Section 2821 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, 29 U.S.C. § 2801, *et seq.* (hereinafter referred to as the "WIA"), authorizes the Governor to establish a workforce investment board to assist the Governor in the development of the State workforce investment plan and to carry out additional specified functions.

In accordance with § 2821 of WIA, this Executive Order shall reconstitute the workforce investment board in Colorado, which will continue to be known as the Workforce Development Council ("Council").

## II. Mission and Scope

The Council shall have the following duties, responsibilities, and powers:

- A. Develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan and other specific functions as provided for in § 2821(d) of the WIA. In addition to meeting the criteria set forth by the WIA, the strategic plan shall also reflect the regional strategic workforce plans as created by subsection (D) of this executive order.
- B. Identify opportunities to more effectively align current initiatives in education, workforce training, and economic development in order to ensure a well-educated and well-trained workforce is available and prepared to meet the needs of a growing and changing economy during the next ten years.
- C. Work with each local workforce investment board to ensure that local workforce investment board membership is composed of local businesses, economic development entities, workforce development entities and higher education institutions. The Council may assist the boards in meeting the requirements of § 2821 of the WIA, and in creating local strategic planning efforts.
- D. Understand and engage industry as economic changes occur in the marketplace. Utilize the strategic partners (education, workforce and economic development) to ensure the industry needs of each sector are being met. The Council shall work with each local workforce investment board in order to identify specific targeted sectors. When necessary, the Council may also assist the regions in conducting ongoing evaluations of local industry, support and training needs.
- E. Promote talent development programs and sector initiatives in order to effectively engage Colorado business. The Council shall also work to ensure that information and workforce services are easily accessible to local businesses.
- F. Facilitate the communications among the partners (workforce, economic development, and education) to share data across workforce regions as well as within other partnerships. The Council shall serve as the governing voice representing all regions of the state with a focus on united common goals, interests, sectors, and delivering best practices among the regions. The Council shall have the responsibility to ensure the communication and information among the workforce investment boards is utilized in the most effective manner.

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- G. Assist various entities, including but not limited to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Department of Education, and other departments, in promoting the use and development of statewide training credential certificates, degree completion programs, and other collaborative opportunities;
- H. Undertake such additional functions, responsibilities, and missions promoting the development of the state's workforce as requested by the Office of the Governor.
- III. Membership
- A. The Council shall be comprised of local businesses along with workforce, economic development, and education entities. Voting members shall consist of the following:
1. The Governor;
  2. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House and two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
  3. Representatives of business in the state, appointed by the Governor, who are:
    - a. Owners of businesses, chief executives or operating officers of businesses, and other business executives or employers with experience in policy making or hiring authority, including members of local boards described in § 2821(b)(1)(C) of WIA;
    - b. Representatives of businesses with employment opportunities in the State; and
    - c. Who are business representatives nominated by State business organizations, business trade associations, or local workforce investment boards.
  4. Other members appointed by the Governor, who are:
    - a. Two chief elected officials, as defined in § 2801(6) of the WIA;

- b. Representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by State labor federations;
  - c. Representative organizations and individuals that have experience with respect to youth activities;
  - d. Representative organizations and individuals that have experience and expertise in the delivery of workforce investment activities, including chief executive officers of community colleges and community-based organizations within the state;
  - e. The lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs and activities that are described in § 2841(b) of the WIA, and carried out by the partners at the workforce centers; and in any case in which no lead state agency official has responsibility for such program, service, or activity, a representative in the State with expertise relating to such program, service, or activity; and
  - f. Such other representatives and state agency officials as the Governor may designate.
- B. The non-voting, ex-officio members of the Council shall consist of the following:
- 1. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment;
  - 2. The Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development and International Trade;
  - 3. The Executive Director of the Department of Corrections;
  - 4. The Commissioner of the Department Education;
  - 5. The Executive Director of the Department of Local Affairs;
  - 6. The Executive Director of the Department of Human Services;
  - 7. The Commissioner of Agriculture;
  - 8. The President of the Colorado Community College System; and
  - 9. The Chair/President of the State Workforce Directors/Association.

- C. This Executive Order is intended to create a small, voting member Council consistent with WIA, and in this regard, Council members may be appointed to satisfy more than one of the specified membership categories.
- D. A majority of the voting members of the Council shall be representatives of business as described in subsection III(A)(3) above. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson for the Council from one of the representatives of business described in subsection III(A)(3) above.
- E. Members of the Council who represent organizations, agencies, or other entities shall be individuals with experience in policymaking authority within the organizations, agencies, or entities. The members of the Council shall represent diverse regions of the State, including urban, rural, and suburban areas.
- F. For the purposes of determining a conflict of interest by any member of the Council, a member of the Council may neither vote on matters under consideration by the Council regarding the provision of services by such member that would provide direct financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member, nor engage in any other activity determined by the Governor to constitute a conflict of interest as specified in the state plan.

#### IV. Staffing and Resources

The Council shall have a director and supporting staff. The Council may receive support from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, and the Colorado Community College System, based on each department's resource availability.

The staff of the Council, in consultation with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, and the Governor, shall establish an annual budget for basic Council functions, activities, meetings, travel, per diem, reports, and staff. Funding for the Council's budget and staff shall come from a portion of the administrative funds available to each of the mandatory and additional federal partner programs specified in §§ 2841(b)(1) and (2) of the WIA.

The amount of the administrative funds from each mandatory and additional federal partner program to be transferred to the Council shall be established by the Governor, proportionate to the annual federal program or activity grant amounts to the state. In addition to the federal programs grant funding, the Council shall seek other federal, state and private grants, gifts and contributions to fund Council special studies, demonstration projects, and initiatives.

V. Directives

The Workforce Development Council is hereby reconstituted. This Executive Order replaces and rescinds Executive Order B 010 99.

VI. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this ninth day of  
September, 2010.

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor