

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

WORKFORCE COMMISSION: Urges and requests the legislative auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Louisiana Workforce Commission's administration of its Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Workforce
3 Innovation and Opportunity Act programs administered by the Louisiana Workforce
4 Commission.

5 WHEREAS, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which is
6 bipartisan legislation that was signed into law in July 2014, replaced the Workforce
7 Investment Act (WIA) of 1998; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Labor, the WIOA was
9 created for the purposes of strengthening and improving our nation's public workforce
10 system by aiding American citizens, particularly young Americans and Americans with
11 significant barriers to employment, in finding high-quality jobs and careers and assisting
12 employers in hiring and retaining skilled workers; and

13 WHEREAS, federal law requires Louisiana to submit a single, coordinated plan for
14 its six core programs funded under WIOA, which include Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth,
15 Wagner-Peyser, Adult Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation programs, as well as any
16 partner programs; and

17 WHEREAS, Louisiana has six partner programs in addition to its core programs, and
18 these partner programs are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF),
19 employment and training programs under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
20 (SNAP), work programs under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, Jobs for Veterans State

1 Grants Program (JVSG), Community Service Block Grant (CSBG), and Senior Community
2 Service Employment Program (SCSEP); and

3 WHEREAS, in 2021, the state of Vermont's auditor's office conducted an
4 investigative report of its state's WIOA program to measure its performance; and

5 WHEREAS, the results of that investigative report concluded the following about
6 Vermont's core programs, which include Adult and Dislocated Worker, Youth, and Wagner-
7 Peyser programs:

8 (1) The core programs serve a small percentage of the eligible population of
9 Vermont citizens.

10 (2) Some participants in the program did not receive high quality jobs and
11 careers, and some instead received little to no earnings.

12 (3) Some participants in the program did not complete their program, and those
13 who did complete the training and later found employment were not working
14 in a field related to their training.

15 WHEREAS, individual program performance metrics are needed to ensure the
16 efficient allocation of taxpayer funds in the pursuit of WIOA goals of improving labor
17 market outcomes; and

18 WHEREAS, the outcome of one state's investigative report is not indicative of the
19 success and effectiveness of Louisiana's own WIOA programs; however, it would behoove
20 our legislative auditor to perform an investigation of this state's WIOA programs.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to investigate
23 the Louisiana Workforce Commission's administration of the Workforce Innovation and
24 Opportunity Act as part of the 2023 Louisiana Performance Audit Program.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
26 of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that this audit include an analysis of each
27 individual employment and training program that has received state or federal funding under
28 the WIOA state plan in the past five years. In addition to the WIOA performance metrics,
29 this analysis shall also include:

1 (1) The average pre-program earnings and employment status of program
2 participants.

3 (2) The number of program participants in comparison to the number of eligible
4 participants in each plan year of the current four-year state plan.

5 (3) The average cost per participant for each program.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
7 of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the audit be completed no later than March
8 1, 2023.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
10 state legislative auditor and the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Requests the legislative auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs administered by the Louisiana Workforce Commission.