



MAWB Committee Report

Committee Name: Legislative Committee

Chair(s) of the Committee: Deb Bahr-Helgen & Jinny Rietmann

Meeting Attendees: Erik Aamoth, Ling Becker, Nicole Swanson, Mark Jacobs, Carrie Bendix, Elena Foshay

Date of Last Meeting: 4/11/2024

Date of Next Meeting: 4/30/2024

Action Items in Progress/Pending:

- Update WIOA bill feedback letter
- Develop 50% training impacts for MN one-pager
- Collect ideas for 2025 Legislative Platform
 - o Send ideas to Jinny & Deb

Action Items Completed:

No action items at the April meeting.

Presentations from Meeting:

- State Legislative Update from Nathan Ratner, Government Relations – Department of Employment & Economic Development
 - o Omnibus bill passed on Senate Floor without amendments on Monday (4/8)
 - Expansion of Dislocated Worker Program
 - Cannabis Businesses Programs (<https://mn.gov/deed/business/cannabis>)
 - Request for information (in next 4-6 weeks) from community & around cannabis industry for grant programs: (CanStartUp [nonprofit lenders for microbusinesses], CanGrow [run by OCM, part TA/part loans for farmers], CanNavigate [TA for either for- or non-profit], CanTrain [workforce development program to organization providing training & individuals pursuing the training])
no WIOA funds can be used for anything related to cannabis
 - Sovereign Nations are eligible for grant programs.
 - o A bill put forward by unions would allow for UI during strikes.



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE BOARDS

- DEED is following closely.
- Continue to hold position to keep money in the Workforce Development Fund.
- Federal Legislative Update & Next Steps from Jinny Rietmann, Committee Co-Chair
 - WIOA bill passed the House earlier this week. Sentiment is that they just wanted to get a bill out there.
 - Focus advocacy to the Senate now. Jinny will continue to push the message forward with our senators.
 - NAWB legislative visits went well.
 - “Careers Act” was a newer proposal that laid out work already being done in the workforce system. Continue to encourage there isn’t a need for a parallel system.
 - A lot of buy in on our priorities.
 - Expand advocacy on this issue (outside of just workforce boards) to Smith – private business and county leaders.
 - Timeline on Senate bill may be mid-summer. The bill is still in very early stages of being written.
 - Reach out to Jinny with however she can be of help. Original letter will be updated with more positive components & make it specific to the Senate bill.
- Discuss next year’s legislative platform at next meeting.

Questions for Operations Committee:

No questions at this time.

Other Comments:

Submitted by: Bob Libal on behalf of Deb Bahr-Helgen & Jinny Rietmann, Co-Chairs

Date: 4/12/2024