



MAY 23 2017

The Honorable John Todd P. Haymore
Secretary
Virginia Department of Commerce and Trade
Patrick Henry Building
1111 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Secretary Haymore:

This correspondence constitutes the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) disposition of your requests for waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), submitted on February 28 and March 14, 2017 (copy enclosed). This action is taken under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIOA Title I, Subtitles A, B, and E, and sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Requested Waiver: State Workforce Development Board (WDB) membership requirements in Sec.101 (b) of the WIOA.

The Commonwealth is requesting a waiver of the State WDB membership requirements. ETA denies this waiver request. WIOA streamlines board membership compared to its predecessor legislation and provides adequate flexibility for the Governor to appoint an agile and successful WDB. The Governor must appoint a WIOA-compliant State WDB. Currently, the Commonwealth remains out of compliance with Sec. 101(b) of WIOA.

Requested Waiver: Waiver to permit the State Department of Veterans and Defense Affairs to apply for U.S. Department of Labor competitive grant solicitations under WIOA.

The Commonwealth is requesting a waiver to allow an entity other than the State agency that administers WIOA to apply for discretionary grants funded by WIOA. This request is unnecessary. WIOA discretionary grant opportunities are located in WIOA Title I Subtitle D, and vary by program in regard to criteria for eligible entities. We encourage you to refer to the eligibility criteria for any funding opportunity issued by ETA and continue to foster broad partnerships to meet the workforce needs of job-seekers and employers, including Virginia's military families.

WIOA represents a significant opportunity for the transformation of the public workforce system, in part due to the unprecedented level of flexibility that the legislation provides State and Local stakeholders, as well as the renewed emphasis on cooperation and planning between traditionally siloed programs. The ETA Philadelphia Regional Office will be in touch to provide technical assistance regarding improved alignment and coordination of the WIOA Title

I and Wagner-Peyser programs, while taking advantage of the unique experience and capabilities of the Virginia Department of Veterans and Defense Services. The ETA Philadelphia Regional Office is also available to provide technical assistance regarding the development and submission of WIOA waiver requests. If you have any questions related to the issues discussed above, please contact Jennifer Friedman at (215) 861-5298 or friedman.jennifer@dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Byron Zudiema
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable John C. Harvey Jr., Secretary of the Virginia Department of Veteran and Defense Affairs
Sara J Dunnigan, Executive Director, Virginia Board of Workforce Development
Leo Miller, Regional Administrator, ETA Philadelphia Regional Office
Jennifer Friedman, Division Director, ETA Philadelphia Regional Office