PA 26-99—SB 346
Labor and Public Employees Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

SUMMARY: This act changes the membership of the Governor's Workforce Council by (1) increasing the number of the governor's appointments of business representatives from 24 to 30; (2) changing the qualifications for these members and requiring at least one of them to be an expert in residential construction and another in unionized construction; and (3) eliminating a separate gubernatorial appointment of a residential construction expert who, under prior law, was not subject to those qualifications.

The act also requires the governor to appoint to the council a (1) member who is a representative of a labor organization nominated by a state building trades labor organization and (2) director of a vocational rehabilitation program at the Department of Aging and Disability Services. Additionally, the act caps the total members of the council at 62 members and requires that modifications to the council's membership conform to federal law, which, among other things, requires the majority of the governor's appointments to be business representatives and requires them to meet certain qualifications.

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes, such as updating the citation to federal law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

CHANGES TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Prior law required the council's business representatives appointed by the governor to:

1. be owners of a business, chief executives or operating officers of a business, or other business executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority;
2. represent businesses or organizations representing businesses that provide employment opportunities that at least include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the state; or
3. have been nominated by state business organizations or business trade associations.

The act changes this by requiring that appointees satisfy all three of the above qualifications, generally aligning with federal requirements. Under existing law, at least one of these members must represent small business.

BACKGROUND

Federal Requirements

Federal law requires a state workforce development board's membership to (1) include the governor, two legislators, and other government representatives; (2) have the majority of the governor's appointments be business representatives; and (3) have at least 20% of the governor's appointments be workforce representatives (29 U.S.C. § 3111).

Council Duties

The council's statutory duties include, among other things, convening state agencies, educational institutions, business leaders, and others to (1) inform state workforce development policy, (2) help state agencies and educational institutions align with employers' needs, and (3) help businesses understand how to contribute to the state's workforce efforts.