

Agency Proposal for Legislation for the 2017 Legislative Session

AGENCY NAME: Department of Labor and Industry

CONTACT/TITLE: Judy Bovington, Chief Legal Counsel

PHONE: 444-3255

FAX: 1394

E-MAIL: jbovington@mt.gov

1. What is the problem or issue?

Amend Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) program to update statutes 53-2-1215 to 1219, MCA. Program requirements no longer make as much sense as they did when program first developed in 2009. Not all areas have active BEAR or SBDC involvement making it hard for some businesses/areas (including some tribes) to apply for and get grants to help grow business.

2. What do you want the legislation to do?

- Change employer definition to "businesses employing ~~20 or fewer workers in this state at any one location but~~ not more than 50 workers statewide."
- Eliminate requirement for recommendation by recommending entity (let employers direct submit instead of going through BEAR programs).
- Eliminate requirement for business to be a client of a recommending entity.
- Remove cover-letter requirement (allow for full online submission).
- Establish employee must be employed 6 months (remove probation clause).
- Clarify must be regular/year round employee, not temp, regardless of F/T, P/T, must work 20 hours/week.
- Remove reference to "source of matching funds," allow employers to match with any money they wish.
- Change all references from "providing training" to "purchasing training," since we don't provide training.

Technical Change - change special revenue account to State.

3. If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.

§§ 53-2-1215 to 1219, MCA

4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose (e.g., an increase in or both)?

NA

5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.

NA