

NVRC supports legislation that increases the funding of existing and new education and training programs designed to support and strengthen the region's economy. NVRC supports legislation that would result in local and regional education and business partnerships creating systemic programs to fill the existing and future workforce skills deficit.

**HB 1421** *Chief patron:* Filler-Corn

**Workforce Development; duties of the Chief Workforce Development Advisor.** Requires the Chief Workforce Development Advisor to actively promote the Commonwealth's workforce development and training programs and activities through public and visible means. The bill requires outreach and promotion plans to be developed in coordination with the development of the comprehensive economic development policy required by the Secretary of Commerce and Trade. The bill also provides that funding from publicly funded workforce development programs may be utilized in promotion efforts if deemed necessary.

**HB 1677** *Chief patron:* Byron

**Grants for earning workforce training credentials; New Economy Industry Credential Assistance Training Grants.** Establishes a grant program that would pay grants to certain individuals successfully completing a noncredit workforce training program and earning the related credential in a high-demand field. The grant, up to a total of \$1,000, would be limited to payment of tuition charged for the training program, the cost of any required textbooks, and the cost of any examination required to earn the credential. Individuals (i) enrolled in a public or private high school and participating in a dual enrollment program or (ii) not enrolled in a public or private middle or high school would be eligible for the grant. The noncredit workforce training program must be provided or sponsored by (i) a Virginia community college, (ii) a private institution certified to operate in Virginia by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) that has elected to participate in the grant program, or (iii) the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, New College Institute, Roanoke Higher Education Center, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, or Eastern Virginia Medical School. Individuals would apply for grants directly to the school that provided or sponsored the workforce training program. The Virginia Board of Workforce Development would maintain a list of high-demand fields and the related credentials on its website. The amount of grants available each year for the program would be determined by the general appropriation act. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2016.

**HB 1953** *Chief patron:* Poindexter

**School boards; annual workforce summit.** Requires each local school board to annually host a workforce summit at which members of the local business community, including representatives from the local chamber of commerce or other similar organization, shall provide information on the workforce skills necessary to meet the workforce demands of the local business community and suggest strategies and approaches by which elementary and secondary schools can better foster such skills alone or in cooperation with local business entities.

**HB 1986** *Chief patron:* Byron

**Virginia Board of Workforce Development.** Makes several changes to the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, including (i) requiring quarterly meetings of the Board; (ii) establishing a full-time director position to

be supervised by the Governor's Chief Workforce Development Advisor and dedicated to supporting the Board's operations; and (iii) adding, as an area of policy advice to the Governor, issues to create a business-driven system that increases the rates of attainment of workforce credentials and job attainment. In addition, the bill increases the size of the Board from 26 to 29 members by reshaping the executive branch membership, reducing the number of legislative members from four to two, and increasing the number of citizen members from 14 to 15. The bill also makes several technical amendments required with the transition from the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

**HB 2033** *Chief patron: Byron*

**Workforce development; coordination of statewide delivery of workforce development and training programs and activities.** Makes several changes to coordinate the delivery of workforce development and training programs and activities at the state, regional, and local levels. Changes include (i) creating the Workforce Development Consortium to administer the coordinated implementation of programs and activities under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, (ii) requiring a regional convener of workforce development partners, (iii) establishing minimum levels of fiscal support for workforce credential attainment, and (iv) utilizing WIOA reserve funds for incentive programs to increase workforce credential attainment.

**SB 971** *Chief patron: Ruff*

**Community colleges; workforce training.** Establishes the Community College Workforce Training Grant Program to provide a \$1,000 incentive payment to a community college for each student who (i) has successfully completed a noncredit workforce training program at the community college and (ii) subsequently obtains an industry-recognized certification or license in a high employer demand field in the region served by the community college, with such fields to be identified by the State Board for Community Colleges.

**SB 1002** *Chief patron: Ebbin*

**Local workforce investment boards; pay-for-performance incentives.** Encourages local workforce investment boards to implement pay-for-performance contract strategy incentives for training services as an alternative model to traditional programs. The bill also authorizes local workforce investment boards to allocate funds to the extent permissible under §§ 128(b) and 133(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-128) for pay-for-performance partnerships.

**SB 1024** *Chief patron: Alexander*

**Apprenticeship-related instruction.** Transfers the duty to establish policies for apprentices governing the provision of apprenticeship-related instruction delivered by state and local public education agencies and to provide for the administration and supervision of related and supplemental instruction from the State Board for Community Colleges to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.