Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Speech 13

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ISSUE: Should Local Workforce Boards be mandatory?

BACKGROUND: In an effort to localize the operation of the new retraining system, both the House and the Senate bills create Local Workforce Development Boards. These Boards - community, county or region-wide in scope, would generally be responsible for the operation of the program and the delivery of the services at the local level.

The Senate bill did not mandate local boards (you voted for just such an amendment during Committee but the amendment failed on a tie vote). The House bill mandates local boards which do not run programs but competitively select providers to participate in an integrated career center system within the workforce area.

Under the proposals being discussed by the staff conference, each Local Workforce Delivery Area (established by the Governor) would be run by a local board. The membership of the Board would consist of representatives of business and industry (a majority), employees (and possibly labor), education-related representatives, and maybe parents and disabled. The members of the Board would be selected by the local elected officials and the Governor would annually certify each Board. The duties of each Board would be to issue payments to providers, select providers, and develop local plans for the delivery of services.

TALKING POINTS: The needs of the Local Workforce Development Areas established under the bill can be best determined by the people within that local area.

Local Boards should be able to make the decisions about the administration of the programs within their local area and not be controlled by the Governor.

Local Boards under the effective control of the Governor are not truly autonomous and are reduced to being "agents" of the Governor.