

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**  
**LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**  
**ON WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**2007- 2008 Interims**

**SENATE MEMBERS**

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**Senator Jeffrey V. Kessler**  
**Senator Ron Stollings**  
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**Delegate Bonnie Brown - *ex officio***  
**Delegate Larry Border - *ex officio***

**Final Report of**

**LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON**  
**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Legislative Oversight Commission on Workforce Investment for Economic Development was appointed pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code §5B-2B-7, *et seq.*, following the 2007 Regular Session of the 78th Legislature. Pursuant to their statutory charge the Commission was to make a continued investigation, study and review of the practices, policies and procedures of the workforce investment strategies and programs implemented in the state.

During the course of the 2007 - 2008 interim period the Legislative Oversight Commission on Workforce Investment for Economic Development met and received information on these practices, policies and procedures and other important issues from state agencies, political subdivisions, advocacy groups and other pertinent sources. The Commission **REPORTS** as follows:

Counsel to the Commissioner presented an overview at the initial Commission meeting of the Commission's statutory charge so they were fully aware of their mission. To meet this obligation, the Commission heard at various times throughout the year from Ron Radcliff, the Director of WorkForce West Virginia. Mr. Radcliff provided a financial overview of WorkForce West Virginia. Specifically he responded to inquiries from the Commission regarding press

reports that Region II was in particular financial disarray. Mr. Radcliff also provided the Commission with insight into the operation of Region VII which was undergoing an internal struggle. Pursuant to press reports regarding potential office closings, Mr. Radcliff also informed the Commission of the agencies plans in this regard. Finally, the Commission requested information from Mr. Radcliff regarding a data interface to better track PROMISE Scholarship recipients. At various times, the Commission also heard from Executive Director's of the regional Workforce Investment Boards.

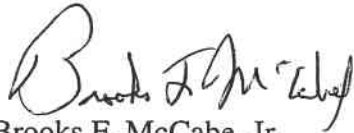
The Commission also heard from Cabinet Secretary, Kelly Goes, Department of Commerce. Secretary Goes reported on a recent audit conducted on WorkForce West Virginia. The audit recommended greater control by the State of local WorkForce Investment Board (WIB) money. Current practice provided no oversight or responsibility.

The Commission also received updates from Jim Skidmore, Chancellor of Community and Technical College Education.

A great deal of time during 2007-2008 was spent on Region VII. During the September interims in Martinsburg, the Commission met with representatives of Region VII at the local WorkForce West Virginia Office. They expressed concerns over the growing schism in the region between the three (3) eastern most counties and the remainder of the region. During the October meeting this discussion continued as the Chair of the Region VII WorkForce Investment Board and the Chief Local Elected Official addressed the Commission over the growing problem.

The Commission **RECOMMENDS** that the situation in Region VII continue to be monitored and that, if possible, a discussion with the Governor regarding potential solutions to alleviate the situation.

Respectfully submitted



Brooks F. McCabe, Jr.  
Senate Chair



Kenneth Tucker  
House Chair