



Labor & Employment

During the 2018 legislative session, the General Assembly created and continued programs related to employment training and recruitment.

Workforce Development Programs

The Skilled Worker Outreach, Recruitment, and Key Training Grant Program (WORK program) provides grants to organizations that offer workplace training skills. *House Bill 18-1316* extends the program from January 1, 2018, through January 1, 2021, with a total of \$7.6 million to expand programs over that period.

The General Assembly created the Employment First Advisory Partnership in 2016 to develop a plan to expand employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, identify barriers to employment for those individuals, and identify training needs for staff and vendors. *Senate Bill 18-145* implements the initial recommendations of the partnership. The bill requires the Medical Services Board to promulgate rules requiring training or certification for certain supported employment service providers and directs the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to collect employment data for individuals eligible for employment services, including types and sector of employment, wages, and hours worked. Finally, the bill requires that the Department of Labor and Employment's fee

schedule for rehabilitation services include the discovery process as an alternative assessment if appropriate for persons with disabilities.

Employee Status

House Bill 18-1303 exempts a part-time (15 hours or less in a seven-day period) coach for a nonprofit youth organization from unemployment insurance coverage if the coach has a written agreement with the organization stating that the coach is an independent contractor. The coach must not be economically dependent on income from the job, and the nonprofit may not have control over the coaching services provided.