



MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: Oregon State Senate
Date: January 21, 2022
By: Leslie Porter, Analyst
Re: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments

LPRO: LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICE

STATE WORKFORCE AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Governor has appointed the following individuals to the State Workforce and Talent Development Board subject to Senate confirmation.¹

New Appointees

Steve Johnson of Lake Oswego
Mac Prichard of Portland

Reappointees

Ken Madden of Portland
Anne Mersereau of Portland
Soundsharya Nagasubramanian of Portland
Frederick Pool of Hillsboro
Cathy Reynolds of Portland
Venkat Venkatraman of Hillsboro

Term

New Appointees: March 1, 2022 – February 28, 2025
Madden: June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2024
Mersereau: September 17, 2019 – August 16, 2022
Nagasubramanian: September 25, 2020 – September 24, 2023
Pool: December 17, 2021 – December 16, 2024
Reynolds: May 25, 2021 – May 24, 2024
Venkatraman: October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2022

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 660.321 \(2021\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Not required.

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562](#) and [171.565 \(2021\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2021\)](#).

Statutory Requirements³

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires the Governor of each state to establish a state workforce development board.⁴ Membership must include:

- the Governor (GASTON, designee);
- a member of each chamber of the State legislature appointed by the appropriate presiding officer of such chamber (DEMBROW, HOLVEY, THATCHER), and,
- members appointed by the Governor who represent the businesses (CAMPBELL; CORBETT, CREMONA WAGNER, FUNKE, **JOHNSON**, LEMIEUX, LEWIS, **MADDEN**, **MERSEREAU**, **NAGASUBRAMANIAN**, PARSONS, **POOL**, POPKIN, **PRICHARD**, RADIE, **REYNOLDS**, ROGERS, SWANSON, **VENKATRAMAN**. WIRZ), workforce (BELISLE, DAZEY, DUNN, NICHOLSON, PANIAN, WATSON), government (CANNON, DORROH, ERICKSON, HARDER, HUNT, OVERBECK, OZOLS), and other interested groups of the state (BITTON, CHRISTENSEN, FRAZIER, MITSUI, RHODES).

Business members must make up the majority of members and are subject to confirmation by the Senate. Workforce members must make up at least 20 percent of board membership. One member must be a representative of a local workforce development board (RANSOM).

The Governor must select one of the business representatives to serve as chairperson for the board. Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the board are nonvoting members of the board and may act in an advisory capacity only.

Duties and Authority

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers.⁵ The Act requires the Governor of each state to establish a state workforce development board to assist the Governor in:⁶

- the development, implementation, and modification of Oregon's workforce development plan and system;
- the review of statewide policies, of statewide programs, and of recommendations on actions that should be taken by the state to align workforce development programs in a manner that supports a comprehensive and streamlined workforce development system;
- the development and continuous improvement of the workforce development system;
- the development and updating of comprehensive performance accountability measures;
- the identification and dissemination of information on best practices;
- the development and review of statewide policies affecting the coordinated provision of services through the state's one-stop delivery system;

³ [ORS 182.100 \(2021\)](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115 \(2021\)](#) for diversity criteria.

⁴ [29 U.S.C. 3111 \(2015\)](#), [ORS 660.321 \(2021\)](#).

⁵ U.S. Department of Labor, *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa> (last visited August 6, 2020).

⁶ [29 U.S.C. 3111 \(2015\)](#), [ORS 660.324 \(2021\)](#).

- the development of strategies for technological improvements to facilitate access to, and improve the quality of, services and activities provided through the one-stop delivery system;
- the development of strategies for aligning technology and data systems across one-stop partner programs to enhance service delivery and improve efficiencies in reporting on performance accountability measures;
- the development of allocation formulas for the distribution of funds for employment and training activities for adults, and youth workforce investment activities, to local areas;
- the preparation of annual reports;
- the development of the workforce and labor market information system and a statewide employment statistics system;
- the development of such other policies as may promote statewide objectives for, and enhance the performance of, the workforce development system;
- ensuring timely consultation and collaboration with chief elected officials, local workforce development boards, and other workforce stakeholders;
- reviewing and approving local workforce plans;
- working with local workforce development boards to increase efficiencies and align workforce programs and services with local needs;
- recommending the duties and responsibilities of state agencies to implement the federal Act; and
- participating in the development of a coordinated statewide system of activities and services that includes both mandatory and optional partners of the one-stop delivery system.

The board must:⁷

- make available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings, information regarding the activities of the board;
- establish and apply a set of objective qualifications for the position of director, that ensures that the individual selected has the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities, to meet identified benchmarks and to assist in effectively carrying out the functions of the board;
- identify key industries in this state and the workforce skills needed for key industries to grow and thrive;
- identify, in collaboration with workforce representatives, needs for education, training, work experience, and job preparation to ensure Oregonians access to stable high-wage jobs and employment advancement;
- identify opportunities for partnerships with key industry sectors to coordinate workforce development, economic development, and education in response to industry and workforce needs;
- provide guidance and direction to local workforce development boards in the development of local workforce plans;
- adopt policies for the administration of local workforce development boards;

⁷ *Id.*

- function as the primary advisory committee to the Employment Department in conjunction with the Employment Department Advisory Council;
- collaborate with other advisory bodies also tasked with workforce development;
- work with the Oregon Business Development Commission to identify areas of common interest to efficiently align resources, recommend common strategies and provide accountability for reaching statewide goals;
- hold state workforce agencies and local workforce development boards accountable for meeting performance goals and system outcomes;
- convene, engage and coordinate with specified entities to determine needs across key industries, ensure talent pipeline infrastructure includes certain features, utilize sector partnerships, leverage and optimize existing measures and data systems to improve alignment and communication, and ensure state alignment and coordination between industry sector partnerships and initiatives in the local workforce development areas; and
- each biennium, coordinate and collaborate with specified entities to create a single, unified state Workforce and Talent Development Plan.

The board may:⁸

- hire a director and other staff to assist in carrying out its functions; and
- charter and enter into performance compacts with local workforce development boards.

⁸ *Id.*

Executive Appointments Board Roster

Workforce and Talent Development Board

Agency: None
Authorization: ORS 660.321
Members: Min: 30 Max: 40
Term Length: 3 years Limit: 2
Senate confirmation required? Yes

Policy Area: Workforce

Board Contact:

Todd Nell
Oregon Employment Department
875 Union St NE
Salem, OR 97311
503-947-1732
Fax: 503-947-1878
Todd.A.NELL@state.or.us

Current Appointments:

Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)

Rodney D Belisle
Reps of Workforce-Labor
Term(s): 04-01-2017 - 03-31-2020

Position Number: 20

Jana R Bitton
Ex-Officio, Healthcare
Term(s):

Position Number: 39

Craig Campbell
Reps of Business
Term(s): 11-25-2019 - 11-24-2022

Position Number: 4

Ben E Cannon
Reps of Government- Title I & II
Term(s):

Position Number: 31

Jody Christensen
Ex Officio, Economic and Regional Solutions
Term(s):

Position Number: 38

Lauren E Corbett
Reps of Business
Term(s): 09-23-2019 - 09-22-2022

Position Number: 17

Laurie J Cremona Wagner
Reps of Business
Term(s): 02-14-2020 - 02-13-2022

Position Number: 19

Bridget S Dazey
Designated by Governor, WF Invest. Activities
Term(s): 05-15-2019 - 05-02-2020

Position Number: 37

Michael Dembrow
Reps of Legislature
Term(s):

Position Number: 28

Executive Appointments Board Roster

Workforce and Talent Development Board

Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)

Policy Area: Workforce

Patty Dorroh Reps of Government- Chief Elected Officials Term(s): 09-01-2020 - 08-31-2023 09-01-2017 - 08-31-2020	Position Number: 33
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Shari L Dunn Rep of Business Term(s): 06-01-2019 - 05-31-2022 06-01-2016 - 05-31-2019	Position Number: 18
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Kay L Erickson Reps of Government- Title III W-P Term(s):	Position Number: 30
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Tony E Frazier Ex Officio, Community Based Organization Term(s):	Position Number: 40
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Mike Funke Reps of Business Term(s): 05-14-2021 - 05-13-2024	Position Number: 3
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Christian Gaston Labor Policy Advisor, Governor's Designee Term(s):	Position Number: 28
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Christopher C Harder Reps of Government- Economic Development Term(s):	Position Number: 35
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Paul Holvey Reps of Legislature Term(s):	Position Number: 26
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Douglas L Hunt Reps of Government- Chief Elected Officials Term(s): 03-01-2018 - 02-28-2021 09-01-2017 - 02-28-2018	Position Number: 34
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Steve Johnson Term(s): 03-01-2022 - 02-28-2025	Position Number: 12
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Alex H Lemieux Reps of Business Term(s): 11-25-2019 - 11-24-2022	Position Number: 8
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Executive Appointments Board Roster

Workforce and Talent Development Board

Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)	Policy Area: Workforce
Julie Lewis Reps of Business Term(s): 11-25-2019 - 11-24-2022	Position Number: 5
Ken J Madden Reps of Business Term(s): 06-01-2021 - 05-31-2024 06-01-2018 - 05-31-2021 06-01-2015 - 05-31-2018 06-01-2012 - 05-31-2015	Position Number: 1
Anne F Mersereau Rep of Business Term(s): 09-17-2019 - 08-16-2022 05-03-2017 - 09-17-2019	Position Number: 2
Mark M Mitsui Others Designated by Governor Term(s): 07-01-2017 - 06-30-2020	Position Number: 36
Soundharya Nagasubramanian Reps of Business Term(s): 09-25-2020 - 09-24-2023 09-25-2017 - 09-24-2020	Position Number: 13
Corey H Nicholson Reps of Workforce-Labor Term(s): 02-01-2020 - 01-31-2023 09-05-2019 - 01-31-2020	Position Number: 22
Marc A Overbeck Ex Officio, Oregon Health Authority Term(s):	Position Number: 42
Keith Ozols Reps of Government, Title IV Voc Rehab Term(s):	Position Number: 32
Dwain T Panian Reps of Labor Term(s): 02-01-2020 - 01-31-2023	Position Number: 24
Frederick S Pool, PhD Reps of Business Term(s): 12-17-2021 - 12-16-2024 12-17-2018 - 12-16-2021	Position Number: 14

Executive Appointments Board Roster

Workforce and Talent Development Board

Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)

Policy Area: Workforce

Wendy L Popkin Rep of Business Term(s): 11-19-2021 - 11-18-2024	Position Number: 10
Mac Prichard Term(s): 03-01-2022 - 02-28-2025	Position Number: 15
Debbie Radie Reps of Business Term(s): 09-25-2017 - 09-24-2020	Position Number: 7
Lisa Ransom Term(s): 11-22-2021 - 11-21-2024	Position Number: 45
Cathy Reynolds Reps of Business Term(s): 05-25-2021 - 05-24-2024 05-25-2018 - 05-24-2021	Position Number: 11
Rhonda M Rhodes CTEC High School Term(s): 01-01-2020 - 12-31-2022	Position Number: 41
Melinda B Rogers Reps of Business Term(s): 11-25-2019 - 11-24-2022	Position Number: 6
Jimmy Swanson Reps of Business Term(s): 11-25-2019 - 11-24-2022	Position Number: 9
Kim Thatcher Reps of Legislature Term(s):	Position Number: 25
Venkat Venkatraman Reps of Business Term(s): 10-01-2019 - 09-30-2022 09-28-2018 - 09-30-2019	Position Number: 16
Chelsea E Watson Reps of Workforce-Labor Term(s): 09-05-2019 - 09-04-2022	Position Number: 21

Executive Appointments Board Roster

Workforce and Talent Development Board

Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)

Policy Area: Workforce

Jackie Wirz

Rep of Business

Term(s): 11-19-2021 - 11-18-2024

Position Number: 27