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**Higher Education Committee**

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**SB 5613**

**Brief Description:** Concerning entrepreneurial training opportunities.

**Sponsors:** Senators Kilmer, Kastama, Kauffman, Shin, Delvin, Brown and McAuliffe.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Ensures the availability of entrepreneurial training opportunities through local workforce investment boards.

**Hearing Date:** 3/19/07

**Staff:** Jennifer Thornton (786-7111).

**Background:**

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) was created by the Legislature in 1991 in an effort to make the state's workforce education and training system better coordinated, more efficient, more responsive to the needs of business, workers and local communities, and more accountable for its performance.

Congress passed into law the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 (PL 105-220) to prepare youth, dislocated workers, and adults for entry into the labor force, and to provide for the planning, implementation, and ongoing oversight of a comprehensive state workforce development system. Executive Order 99-02 established the WTECB as the state Workforce Investment Board for the federal WIA of 1998, and created 12 local Workforce Development Councils as the local workforce investment boards.

On February 23, 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor issued a memo titled "Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 16-04." This memo requested that states "encourage local workforce investment boards to consider entrepreneurial training programs for the WIA customers as part of their menu of services and to explore the appropriate partnerships to support these training programs." Entrepreneurial training is a permitted training service under the WIA, and self-employment is an allowable employment outcome. Entrepreneurial training and related education are not listed among the WTECB's current list of duties.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:**

The WTECB is to develop policy objectives for the WIA in the state and ensure that entrepreneurial training opportunities are available through programs of each local workforce investment board. The WTECB is to facilitate the development of school-to-work transition programs including entrepreneurial education and training. In the planning requirements for local workforce investment boards, the WTECB must include a requirement that local workforce boards specify how entrepreneurial training will be offered.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.