

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 2022-13
Employment Services USDOL Proposed Rule

Whereas, the US Department of Labor (USDOL) has published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing (Docket No. ETA–2022–0003) which would require States, with no exceptions, to use State merit staff to provide Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES) services, and,

Whereas, the proposal would reverse current federal policy that allows States maximum flexibility in staffing to provide ES services, and,

Whereas, current federal policy has allowed the State of Michigan to use local merit staff employees to deliver ES services through the local network of Michigan Works! Agencies to over 86,000 job seekers in 2021, and,

Whereas, our primary concern is the negative impacts of this proposal to Michiganders and the primary customers of the workforce development system – both job seekers and employers, and,

Whereas, a key benefit to greater staffing flexibility is strong local strategic relationships with businesses, higher education, nonprofits, childcare, elementary and secondary education, adult education providers, and other partners which allows for more efficient customer service to connect job seekers with in-demand jobs and training opportunities and facilitates a pipeline for those students to local employers, and,

Whereas, Northeast Michigan Consortium Workforce Development Board, comprised of business, labor and community leaders, is currently responsible for the effective and efficient delivery of eight Michigan Works! American Job Centers in Alcona, Alpena Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties using 10 Employment Service local staff, and this rule would take away local control of Employment Services, and

Whereas, with this required staffing model, staff and service reductions are inevitable as services currently provided by over 400 Michigan Works! staff would be reduced to approximately 100 State of Michigan staff, resulting in significantly longer wait times for job seekers and delays in services for the 32,000 businesses served annually, and,

Whereas, this change would risk potential loss of several of the 99 full and satellite Michigan Works! American Job Centers across the state, and would negatively impact our constituents by decreased assistance filling job openings, reduction and elimination of job fairs, cutting of industry-led collaboratives, and decreased or no access to job training programs, and,

Whereas, limiting ES staffing to State staff, would eliminate the advantage of the streamlined current staffing model in Michigan which leverages other program funding from WIOA Title II Adult Education, SNAP, TANF, TAA, and others to supplement the Wagner-Peyser state allocation, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the USDOL to abandon this proposed rule change, and urges Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Congressional Delegation to support local control by the Workforce Development Boards and

oppose this rule and notify the USDOL Secretary that it would have an adverse impact on the Michigan “One Stop” workforce development system,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the U.S. Employment and Training Administration/U.S. Department of Labor, Governor Whitmer, our U.S. Legislators and State Legislators.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified XXXXX of the County of XXXXX certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at its XXXX, 2022, meeting

Moved by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____ to adopt the above Resolution #22-13 as presented. Motion carried.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
County of Alpena)

Robert Adrian, Chairman of the Board

I, Keri Bertrand, Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County of Alpena, the same Court of Record and having a seal, do hereby certify that I have compared the annexed copy of the Resolution adopted by the Alpena County Board of Commissioners at the May 24, 2022 session and that it is a true and correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at Alpena this 24th day of May 2022.

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk