

Legislative Coordinating Commission

Resolution Establishing the Working Group on J-1 Exchange Visitors to Promote Economic Development, Cultural Exchange, and Responsible Practices

_____ moves that the Legislative Coordinating Commission adopt the following resolution:

Whereas: Under Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 3.305, subdivision 6, the Legislative Coordinating Commission may establish joint commissions, committees, task forces or other bicameral working groups and delegate to them specific powers and duties of the Legislative Coordinating Commission; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislative Coordinating Commission of the State of Minnesota:

- 1. Duties and scope of work.** The Working Group on J-1 Exchange Visitors to Promote Economic Development, Cultural Exchange, and Responsible Practices (“Working Group”) is established to review and make recommendations regarding monitoring and enforcement of state policies affecting J-1 Exchange Summer Work Travel program and the Intern program.

The Working Group shall:

- a. Review current law, policy, wage policies, and current practice for J-1 recruiters, sponsors, employers, and student employees in Minnesota to promote economic development, cultural exchange, and current practices.
- b. Ensure all recruiters, employers, and J-1 visa holders in Minnesota clearly understand the rules of the J-1 program, and provide best practice recommendations for effectively communicating with all relevant stakeholders.
- c. Develop a clear understanding of how J-1 has been helping Minnesota in the past and will in the future.
- d. Make policy recommendations.

Specific duties include:

- a. Analyze the interaction of federal and state laws governing the J-1 Exchange Summer Work Travel program and the Intern program.
- b. Evaluate how the policies, strategies, and programs of Minnesota agencies that relate to exchange visitors during all phases of the exchange program further the educational and cultural intent of the exchange visitor program category and protect the health and welfare of the exchange visitor including civil, labor, and human rights;
- c. Evaluate and make recommendations regarding the training and support for

- relevant agency staff working with employers and employees of J-1 Summer Work Travel exchange and J-1 intern visa students;
- d. Promote transparency by gathering and making public relevant data;
 - e. Make policy recommendations, including modifications of existing state policy;
 - f. Produce a public report and recommendations;

- 2. Membership.** The Working Group consists of six members: Three members of the Senate, including two appointed by the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, and one appointed by the Minority Leader; and three members of the House of Representatives including two members appointed by the Speaker, and one member appointed by the Minority Leader.

The House and Senate must make their appointments by October 1, 2014.

- 3. Advisory committee.** The Working Group may establish an advisory committee to assist it in its work. Members of the advisory committee must be elected by vote of the Working Group, and include representatives of the following groups:
- a. One public representative of employers of J-1 visa holders;
 - b. One public representative of J-1 sponsors and recruiters;
 - c. Two public representatives with expertise in Minnesota Immigrant Communities and New American issues who have expertise in job markets in relevant sectors, migration, civil and labor rights, and human rights. One representative should be a Minnesota immigration expert, and one should be from the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota or from the University of Minnesota law school;
 - d. One public representative who is an advocate of J1 students who participate in the program;
 - e. Two public representatives who are members of organized labor
- 4. Initial meeting, officers, rules.** The initial meeting must be called by the Chair of the LCC, or her designee, and scheduled by November 1, 2014. The Working Group must elect a chair and other officers it deems necessary.

The Working Group may adopt rules of procedure as necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

- 5. Staff.** Appropriate staff of the LCC must provide support to the Working Group.

- 6. Expenses.** Members of the Working Group are eligible for per diem payments and reimbursement of expenses under section 3.099. Members of the advisory committee are eligible for per diem payments as provided under section 15A.0575, and reimbursement of expenses under the terms of the LCC Legislative Plan for Employee Benefits and Policies.
- 7. Expiration.** The Working Group expires January 1, 2015 or upon submission of its report to the Legislature, whichever occurs first.

Proposed
September 10, 2014