

196B-1 Employment

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TSONGAS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BILL: SUMMARY

PURPOSE: The primary purpose of this legislation is to create an Office of Youth Employment within the Department of Labor. The function of this office is to administer youth-related jobs and counselling programs. This is achieved by amending Section 304 of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973.

DIRECTOR: The head of the Youth Employment Office shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, with consent of the Senate.

AND GUIDANCE: The function of job training and career guidance are provided in four major ways:

1. part-time employment for low-income high school students who need the job income to remain in school
2. career-oriented work and training for youth who are unemployed, under-employed, or economically disadvantaged -- age 16 and over -- who possess the basic educational requirements
3. summer jobs in recreation or related programs for economically disadvantaged youth
4. in-school guidance and counselling for youth who must decide upon work or higher education

** This function will be most effectively carried through by the U.S. Employment Services (USES). The responsibility of this agency will be a) to promote and develop job opportunities for juniors; b) to counsel and place youth; c) designate at least one individual in each state or federal USES office who shall conduct this counselling and placement program according to the guidelines of the Youth Employment Office bill.

This bill shall be administered through the prime sponsorship system established in CETA. Funding for the implementation of this program shall be primarily distributed through the prime sponsors. However, if the Director of the Youth Employment Office determines that a state or private agency can enhance the youth employment and counselling program described in the legislation, he shall award such state or agency the appropriate funds.

Funding for this program shall, to the extent feasible, be awarded for a period of at least three years.

Follow-through information must frequently be provided by the Director of the Youth Employment Office who shall be directly accountable to the House Committee on Education and Labor and the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.