Senator Greenstein

The number of New Jersey residents aged 65 years and older is expected to increase from 14 percent in 2012 to 22 percent in 2032. How much of a change within this population segment does the department anticipate in the labor workforce participation rate over the next 16 years? In addition, what programs does the department currently offer to aid residents in securing second career jobs in retirement?

| Projected Labor Force Participation for Persons 65 years and older | New Jersey, 2012 to 2032 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number in the labor force | 2012 | 2017 | 2022 | 2027 | 2032 |
| | 267,200 | 321,600 | 392,500 | 474,900 | 536,400 |
| Labor force participation rate | 22.1% | 22.9% | 23.9% | 25.2% | 25.9% |


What programs does the department currently offer to aid residents in securing second career jobs in retirement?

NJLWD administers the WorkForce 55+ program which is a senior community service employment program (SCSEP) authorized by Title V of the Older American Act. It is a community service and work based training program which provides subsidized training for low-income persons 55 or older who are unemployed and have poor employment prospects. In 2015, the program was authorized by USDOL to service 251 participants. To date, the program has successfully serviced 287 participants and, by the end of the program year, anticipates it will service over 325 participants. In New Jersey, the demand for this program continues to grow.

WorkForce 55+ is committed to empowering low-income older workers to achieve economic independence and fully engage in the process of determining their own future. This program partners with community-based non-profit organizations and government agencies (host agencies) to provide participants with training opportunities to enhance their skills. Participants are paid while they train approximately 20 hours weekly. Participants work with program staff to target and achieve personal employment goals. As a result of strong employer
outreach and partnerships, approximately 25% of program participants enter and retain unsubsidized employment.

Through partnerships with One-Stop Career Centers and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, participants are provided a wealth of training resources and supportive services. In July 2017, federal funding for the SCSEP program is expected to increase in an effort to service more participants. Currently, the WorkForce 55+ program services the following counties: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Sussex and Union.

Senator Ruiz

The industry of computer programming and code writing is fast growing. Please provide information, including the number offered, on training programs delivered by the department in this industry?

There are currently over 150 training programs listed on New Jersey’s Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) that offer instruction in fields relating to Computer Programming and Coding. The Training Providers that offer these programs are located in 12 different counties ranging geographically from Atlantic to Passaic. Since Computer Programming and Coding are formally considered “In-Demand” occupations in NJ, LWD is able to offer funding for job seekers (who meet the eligibility criteria for funded services and the program entrance requirements) to participate in these programs.

Senator Beck

Senate Bill No. 15 of 2016 sponsored by Senator Sweeney and Senator Vitale aims to gradually raise the State’s minimum wage to $15.00 per hour over the next five years. Under the bill, the minimum wage would rise to $10.10 per hour on January 1, 2017, and then be increased by at least $1.25 per hour until 2021. After 2021, annual increases would be tied to changes in the consumer price index.

The State holds contracts with service providers in a variety of departments, including Labor and Workforce Development. Many of these service providers pay staff at the current minimum wage rate of $8.38 per hour, as well as at rates lower than the eventual $15.00 per hour rate intended in Senate Bill No. 15. Please provide information on the fiscal impact on the State in regard to these contracts if the minimum wage is raised to $15.00 per hour?
Accurately predicting the future fiscal impact of a minimum wage hike across a diverse range of State service providers is beyond the capacity of the Department.

**Senator Pou**

*In light of Senate Bill No. 15, please provide information on the benefits of raising the minimum wage to $15.00 per hour, specifically in regard to the change in the economy as the result of sales tax increases?*

The potential impact of increased sales tax revenue on the New Jersey economy is an issue beyond the capacity of the Department.