

Hospitality industry scrambles to find workers

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Gov. Deval Patrick's administration is trying to help Cape Cod employers who are scrambling to find workers for the 2008 summer season.

The Patrick administration's labor and work force development agency will hold job fairs on Thursday and on Monday to connect employers in the hospitality industry on the Cape and Islands with potential employees.

Cape and Islands employers face potential shortfalls in seasonal workers because a federal exemption expired that allowed foreign seasonal workers to return to their same employers without being counted toward national limits on work visas.

The state Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development is sponsoring the two jobs fairs with the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, Career Opportunities Career Centers and the Cape and Islands Workforce Investment Board.

The first job fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday at White's of Westport at 66 State Road in Westport. The operators of several restaurants and hotels will be looking to fill as many as 100 positions.

The second job fair will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Career Opportunities Career Center at 372 North St. in Hyannis. Employers in the hospitality industry will be on hand recruiting for hundreds of positions.

A special Web site, www.capejobs.com/jobfair, has been established to provide information for employers and job seekers.