

Date of Hearing: March 20, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Al Muratsuchi, Chair
AB 2179 (Davies) – As Introduced February 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Pupil services: local apprenticeship programs

SUMMARY: Requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide information on local apprenticeship programs to students in grades 11 and 12 at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of each school year. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires LEAs to provide information on local apprenticeship programs to students in grades 11 and 12 at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of each school year.
- 2) Requires LEAs to access this information from the database of registered program sponsors available on the website of the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS).
- 3) Authorizes LEAs to use the database to obtain information or materials, including pamphlets or brochures.
- 4) Requires an LEA to include a direct link to the database on their website, if they maintain one.
- 5) Defines "LEA" as a school district, county office of education (COE), or charter school.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires that work experience education be consistent with standards established by the California Apprenticeship Council or the Division of Apprenticeship Standards of the DIR. (Education Code (EC) 51766)
- 2) Requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO) to be responsible for allocating funds for apprenticeship programs in good standing for the secondary education system. (EC 8150)
- 3) Requires the Chancellor and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards of the DIR, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), to jointly develop a model format for agreements between apprenticeship programs and LEAs for instruction. (EC 8155)
- 4) Defines an "apprenticeship training program" as a comprehensive plan containing, among other things, apprenticeship program standards, program regulations, related and supplemental instruction course outlines, and policy statements for the effective administration of that apprenticeship training program. (EC 79144)
- 5) Defines a "pre-apprenticeship program" as a structured plan of training and studies based on industry standards that is designed to prepare individuals with the skills and competencies needed to enter an approved apprenticeship training program. (EC 79144)

- 6) Urges the governing board of a school district to provide access to a comprehensive educational counseling program for all students enrolled in the school district, and among other duties, requires that educational counseling include high-quality career programs at all grade levels for students, in which students are assisted in doing the following:
 - a) Planning for the future, including, but not limited to, identifying personal interests, skills, and abilities, career planning, course selection, and career transition;
 - b) Becoming aware of personal preferences and interests that influence educational and occupational exploration, career choice, and career success;
 - c) Developing work self-efficacy for the ever-changing work environment, the changing needs of the workforce, and the effects of work on the quality of life;
 - d) Understanding the relationship between academic achievement and career success, and the importance of maximizing career options;
 - e) Understanding the value of participating in career technical education pathways, programs, and certifications, including, but not limited to, those related to regional occupational programs and centers, the federal program administered by the United States Department of Labor offering free education and vocational training to pupils, known as “Job Corps,” the California Conservation Corps, work-based learning, industry certifications, college preparation and credit, and employment opportunities;
 - f) Understanding the need to develop essential employable skills and work habits; and
 - g) Understanding entrance requirements to the Armed Forces of the United States, including the benefits of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. (EC 49600)
- 7) Requires the governing boards of school districts to notify parents and guardians of minor pupils of specified items at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term. (EC 48980)

FISCAL EFFECT: The Office of Legislative Counsel has keyed this as a possible state-mandated local program.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. According to the author, “Apprenticeships have the opportunity to offer students of every background the chance for a steady and stable job in a number of growing fields. Many of these experiences lead to well-paying careers. California should be at the forefront when it comes to recruiting and teaching students about local opportunities located near them. AB 2179 is a common-sense measure to ensure our schools are providing information to our students about apprenticeship opportunities available to them.”

Apprenticeship in California. Apprenticeship is a system of training in a trade or profession that combines both classroom study and on-the-job training. The DAS within the DIR administers California apprenticeship law and establishes apprenticeship standards for wages, hours, working

conditions, and the specific skills required for state certification as a journey person in an apprenticeable occupation. It promotes apprenticeship training, consults with program sponsors, and monitors programs to ensure high standards for on-the-job training and supplemental classroom instruction. DAS has a new Business Engagement Team to particularly address the needs of non-traditional industries seeking to develop new programs.

The number of apprentices in California has increased dramatically in recent years in tandem with the state's economic growth. Governor Newsom set a goal of serving 500,000 apprentices by 2029. According to the DIR, there are currently 90,283 registered apprentices and 1,295 registered trainees.

Pre-apprenticeship programs. According to the DIR, registered pre-apprenticeship programs prepare individuals to enter and succeed in registered apprenticeship programs, and must be formally associated with at least one DAS registered apprenticeship program sponsor. They expand the participant's career pathway opportunities with industry-based training coupled with classroom instruction. There are currently 1,777 registered pre-apprentices in California.

Recommended Committee Amendments. Staff recommend that the bill be amended to:

- 1) Remove the language from Section 49605 and place it in a new section 48980.5 with a cross reference to the parent notifications required pursuant to 48980.
- 2) Include reference to pre-apprenticeship programs in the notification requirements.
- 3) Replace "local educational agency" with school district.

Arguments in support. The Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 writes:

"Our Union represents over 10,000 members and we currently have over 1,000 apprentices active in our programs throughout Northern California training the next generation of Union Sheet Metal Workers at our state-of-the-art training facilities. Through apprenticeship, our members have developed both a pathway to the middle class and valuable skills to make them the best qualified workforce in the country.

As of February 2024, the state of California has 91,420 apprentices and this figure leads the nation. The premise of this bill is nothing new. In fact, Governor Newsom understands the importance of apprenticeships and growing our workforce. That is why he has set out on an ambitious goal for California to spend millions of dollars recruiting new apprentices for a statewide goal of 500,000 apprentices by 2029. AB 2179 merely helps achieve this goal.

Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 supports this measure because there's a need to provide students with alternatives to college that can be lucrative and fulfilling. With our average age in our apprenticeship being 29 years old, there's a clear need for additional education about apprenticeships in grades 11 and 12 so younger people are shown the value of choosing a Division of Apprenticeship Standards program as a viable career path to provide them a fulfilling life."

Related legislation. AB 1173 (Ta) Chapter 23, Statutes of 2023, requires an LEA serving students in grades 9 to 12, that chooses to hold a college or career fair to notify each community college district with overlapping jurisdiction.

AB 889 (Joe Patterson) Chapter 123, Statutes of 2023, requires LEAs to annually inform parents or guardians of the dangers associated with using synthetic drugs and post this information on their websites.

AB 452 (Friedman) Chapter 199, Statutes of 2022, requires LEAs to provide notification to parents of each student about California's child access prevention laws and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms and requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop model language for this notification in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ).

AB 235 (O'Donnell) Chapter 704, Statutes of 2018, authorizes a two-pronged process for the approval of apprenticeship programs, maintaining the current process for the trades and firefighting, and establishes a separate path for programs in newly emerging areas of apprenticeship.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Alameda County Office of Education
Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104

Opposition

None on file

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