
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: SB 618
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Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo
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Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Educational apprenticeships: grant program

SUMMARY

This bill would establish a competitive educational apprenticeship program to be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, subject to funding being made available in the annual Budget Act.

BACKGROUND

Existing law establishes apprenticeship training programs which are comprehensive plans that contain, 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. State funds provided for apprenticeships are appropriated to the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges (CCC) and passed through to local education agencies that provide the instruction. Apprenticeships are paid education work programs that pair adult students with skilled workers for supervised, hands-on learning. Apprenticeship programs are commonly sponsored by business or labor unions that help design and support the programs. Program sponsors must partner with a school district or community college and be approved by the state's Division of Apprenticeship Standards to qualify for related supplemental instruction (RSI) funding. The CCC works closely with the division and workforce partners to direct funds to high quality apprenticeship programs meeting state standards. (Education Code § 79140 et. seq.)

Existing law establishes various career technical education (CTE) programs for public schools including Regional Occupational Center Programs (ROCP) that allow students from multiple schools or districts to participate in career technical training programs regardless of the geographical location of their residence in a county or region. Existing law authorizes the following types of ROCP operational models: county ROCP, joint powers agency ROCP, and a single district ROCP. (Education Code § 52301 et. seq.)

AB 86 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 48, Statutes of 2013, created the California Career Pathways Trust which provided one-time competitive grants to school districts, county superintendents of school, charter schools, and community college districts. The 2013 and 2014 budgets provided a total of \$500 million in Proposition 98 General Fund for K-14 career pathways programs that accomplish the following:

1. Fund specialists in work-based learning, as defined in Section 51760.1 of the Education Code, to convene, connect, measure, or broker efforts to establish or enhance a locally defined career pathways program that connects school

districts, county superintendents of schools, charter schools, and community colleges with business entities.

2. Establish regional collaborative relationships and partnerships with business entities, community organizations, and local institutions of postsecondary education.
3. Develop and integrate standards-based academics with a career-relevant, sequenced curriculum following industry-themed pathways that are aligned to high-need, high-growth, or emerging regional economic sectors.
4. Provide articulated pathways to postsecondary education aligned with regional economies.

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the Education Apprenticeship Grant Program. Specifically, this bill:

1. Provides that the purpose of the program is to assist in the development of educational apprenticeship programs throughout the state.
2. Requires program grants to be allocated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) on a competitive basis, subject to funding being made available in the annual Budget Act.
3. Requires both of the following criteria to be applied by the SPI to determine the competitive value of an application:
 - A. The apprenticeship program is new, and provides an innovative curriculum for its pupils.
 - B. The apprenticeship program provides opportunities for, and clear pathways to, gainful employment in emerging industries that are relevant to the local economy.

STAFF COMMENTS

1. ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author's office, youth unemployment is one of the most serious challenges to California's economic recovery. Job prospects are especially dim for those who have not yet earned a college degree, those who do not plan on going to college, or who lack practical work experience. This lack of opportunity holds young people back from fully participating in society and can stunt professional and personal growth. The author's office indicates that youth individuals need opportunities to learn vital job skills and succeed professionally and one of the most effective ways to equip young people with professional skills is to support educational apprenticeships as part of the school curriculum.
2. ***Apprentices.*** According to the Legislative Analyst Office's Proposition 98 Education Analysis for the 2015-16 Budget, there are more than 50,000

apprentices in various trades. Specifically, in early 2015, California had 53,413 active apprentices in 47 trades, ranging from glazing to motion picture work. The most common apprenticeships are in the construction trades, providing training for carpenters, plumbers, and electricians. Apprenticeships in public safety, primarily for correctional workers and firefighters, are the second most common.

3. **Status of funding.** The 2014-15 Budget Act includes approximately \$22.9 million in Proposition 98 General for apprenticeship related supplemental instruction (RSI). The 2015-16 Governor's Budget proposes to increase this amount by \$14 million, which would bring the total amount for existing apprenticeships to about \$37 million. This increase is intended to restore apprenticeship slots to their pre-recession level and raise the RSI rate from \$5.04 to \$5.46 to match the community college noncredit hourly rate.

The 2015-16 Governor's Budget also proposes \$15 million in Proposition 98 General Fund to support the development of apprenticeships in high-demand occupations, including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and jobs in renewable energy. Unlike the existing apprenticeship funds, the Governor's Budget proposes that these funds be used for purposes other than reimbursing providers for related supplemental instruction (RSI), such as aligning coursework and conducting studies to determine regional needs for apprentices. The Committee may wish to consider whether the new grant program as proposed by this measure is necessary given that it duplicates much of what is proposed in the Governor's Budget.

4. **Related and previous legislation.**

SB 923 (Pavley, 2014) proposed to establish the Educational Apprenticeship Innovation Act whereby competitive grants would be awarded to applicant school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and community colleges for purposes of promoting apprenticeships, preapprenticeships, and career pathways. This bill was vetoed with the following veto message:

This bill would create the Educational Apprenticeship Innovation Prize (EdPrize), a competitive grant program that would be administered by the California Department of Education to promote apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and career pathways between local schools, community colleges, and local businesses.

While the bill is intended to provide EdPrize applicants special consideration under the California Career Pathways Trust, it instead creates a new and duplicative program that does not have an appropriation.

I share the author's sentiments about the importance of apprenticeship programs. The state has invested \$500 million dollars over the past two years to fund the Career Pathways Trust. This investment of public funds encourages partnerships between K-12 schools, community colleges and the business community, and includes apprenticeship programs. I strongly encourage

apprenticeship programs to apply for the \$250 million that is currently available.

Chapter 48, Statutes of 2013 (AB 86, Committee on Budget) established the California Career Pathways Trust and appropriated \$250 million in one-time competitive grants for its purposes.

Chapter 433, Statutes of 2012 (SB 1070, Steinberg) established the Career Technical Education Pathways Program to improve linkages and career technical education pathways between high schools and community colleges.

SUPPORT

None received.

OPPOSITION

Small School Districts' Association

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