
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair
2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No: AB 1558 **Hearing Date:** June 12, 2019
Author: Ramos
Version: May 17, 2019
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Ian Johnson

Subject: Apprenticeship programs: career fairs.

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and Labor, Public Employment and Retirement. A "do pass" motion should include referral to the Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement.

SUMMARY

This bill requires local educational agencies planning to hold a college or career fair to notify each apprenticeship program in the same county.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Provides for the establishment of apprenticeship programs in various trades, to be approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards within the Department of Industrial Relations in any trade in the state or in a city or trade area whenever the apprentice training needs justify the establishment.
- 2) Provides that an apprenticeship program may be administered by a joint apprenticeship committee, unilateral management or labor apprenticeship committee, or an individual employer.
- 3) Defines an apprentice as a person at least 16 years of age who has entered into a written agreement, called an "apprentice agreement," with an employer or program sponsor.
- 4) Establishes the Legislature's recognition that all pupils need to be provided with opportunities to explore and make career choices and to seek appropriate instruction and training to support those choices. As such, the Legislature encourages expansion of cooperative activities between schools, youth leadership activities, and community resources. Among community resources of particular significance in providing information on various career opportunities are vocational and occupational exhibits, demonstrations and activities conducted at fairs.
- 5) Requires the California Department of Education to annually encourage school districts to plan programs and activities which utilize the resources of fairs and youth leadership activities as an integral part of the vocational instructional program and career decision making.

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires a school district or school that is planning to hold a college or career fair to notify each apprenticeship program in the same county as the school district or school of the college or career fair.
- 2) Specifies that, in determining the county location of an apprenticeship program, the school district or school shall rely on the database of approved apprenticeship programs published by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards on its internet website.
- 3) Specifies that the notification shall include the planned date, time, and location of the college or career fair.
- 4) Requires the notice to be delivered before the planned date of the college or career fair either by first-class mail or by electronic mail pursuant to the contact information contained in the database of approved apprenticeship programs published by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards on its internet website.
- 5) Encourages school districts and schools to host apprenticeship fair events, in the style of college and career fair events that are focused on local apprenticeship programs and career technical education opportunities.
- 6) Defines "career fair" to mean an event where multiple private businesses, government agencies, university representatives, or career technical school representatives are invited by a school or school district to present career options or career technical education options for students.
- 7) Defines "college fair" to mean an event where multiple college or university representatives are invited by a school or school district to present college options to students.
- 8) Defines "schools" to mean public schools, including, but not limited to, charter schools and alternative schools.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, "AB 1558 requires a school or local educational agency to contact local apprenticeship programs preceding a college or career fair, ensuring that students are made aware of and have access to local apprenticeship programs. In school climates focused on college readiness, pathways to the good-paying jobs that apprenticeship programs can lead to are too often overlooked."
- 2) ***Apprenticeship programs.*** Apprenticeship is widely recognized as an effective method of passing on essential technical skills and vocational competencies from one generation of skilled workers to another. These programs are intended to offer Californians a pathway to in demand high wage and high-growth careers.

Apprenticeship is a structured training method and method of choice in industries that demand highly skilled, competent and flexible workers.

This system of training is designed to meet the diverse and technical needs for hundreds of industries and occupations. The planned training involves a progression of tasks on the job combined with classroom instruction which integrates the why and how of the job. Apprenticeship programs can be set up for any occupation which involves the use of independent judgment in applying a wide range of skills and knowledge. An apprenticeable occupation can be designed by combining several single-skill jobs to form an upward mobility pattern.

Within the state Department of Industrial Relations is the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS). The DAS guides those interested in setting up an apprenticeship program, including understanding how apprenticeship works and learning what the state standards for education and employment are. All approved apprenticeship programs must be registered with the DAS.

- 3) ***Arguments in support.*** The California State Association of Electrical Workers, California State Pipe Trades Council, Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers, and the International Union of Elevator Constructors, states in support that the bill addresses "the current academic climate in high schools [that] often emphasizes college preparedness while the benefits and opportunities of apprenticeship programs for students exiting high schools are commonly overlooked. Even if students were provided the information on the potential benefits of apprenticeship programs, they are often unaware of how to access local apprenticeship programs."

SUPPORT

None received

OPPOSITION

None received

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