

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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