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134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education, the Council Office within the Department of Job and Family Services, and the State Workforce Policy Board to develop and administer the Career Pathways Apprenticeship Program for students in grades 9-12.
- Requires the program to establish partnerships between schools and public and private entities, provide information and technical assistance to program enrollees, and reduce obstacles to and ensure compatibility with statutory requirements for earning high school credit through work-based learning experiences.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Career Pathways Apprenticeship Program

The bill requires the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education, the Council Office within the Department of Job and Family Services, and the State Workforce Policy Board to develop and administer the Career Pathways Apprenticeship Program for students in grades 9-12.¹ (The “Council Office” is the unit of the Department of Job and Family Services that staffs the Apprenticeship Council and performs the administrative and oversight functions of the state registered apprenticeship system.²)

The program must establish partnerships between schools, businesses, communities, local government entities, and nonprofit organizations to create career pathways for apprenticeships in manufacturing, information technology, financial services, business

¹ R.C. 3303.08(B).

² See R.C. 4139.01, not in the bill.

operations, healthcare, and education. It also must provide information and technical assistance to program enrollees and reduce obstacles to and ensure compatibility with statutory requirements for earning high school credit through work-based learning experiences.³

The Department of Education, in conjunction with the other state entities (described above), must adopt rules to administer the program. The bill specifies that the program may incorporate or work in conjunction with other apprentice and pre-apprentice programs already in operation in Ohio.⁴

Background

Pre-apprenticeship training programs

Current law requires the Department of Education and the Department of Job and Family Services, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, to establish an option for career-technical education students to participate in pre-apprenticeship training programs that impart the skills and knowledge to prepare students for a formal Registered Apprenticeship training program.⁵ A pre-apprenticeship can provide classroom training and hands-on labs related to an apprenticeship occupation. It may also include paid work experience, and many enable students to earn credit toward the completion requirements for a Registered Apprenticeship program.

Restrictions

There are restrictions in the state minor labor laws that can affect pre-apprenticeship programs. Those laws prescribe who may work when and where. Generally, employers may not employ persons under the age of 18 without an appropriate age and schooling certificate or, as they are more commonly known, "work permits," "proof-of-age," or "age and schooling" certificates.⁶

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job training and related technical instruction. A student engaged in an apprenticeship must be at least 16 years of age except where a higher minimum age standard is required by law, and the program must be registered with the Ohio Apprenticeship Council to teach a skilled occupation pursuant to a registered apprenticeship agreement. Apprenticeships are limited to skilled occupations and trades that meet basic criteria through on-the-job training and related technical instruction.

³ R.C. 3303.08(C) and 3313.603(J)(3), the latter not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3303.08(D).

⁵ R.C. 3313.904, not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 4109.02(A), not in the bill. See also R.C. Chapter 3332, none in the bill.

Related instruction is commonly provided in the classroom, but other types of instruction, such as online learning and individualized instruction are also permitted. Federal rules recommend that apprentices complete at least 144 hours of related instruction per year, and many programs subsequently choose to require that amount. In many programs, the related instruction can lead to a college degree, thereby providing an individual with the opportunity to earn both academic and occupational credentials simultaneously.⁷

Credit through subject area competency

Separate law also requires school districts and schools to follow a state framework for competency based education where by students may demonstrate subject area competency through work-based learning experiences, internships, and cooperative education.⁸

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 02-17-21 |

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⁷ <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Apprenticeships-and-Internships>.

⁸ R.C. 3313.603(J)(3), not in the bill.