
Labor & Workforce Development Committee

HB 1059

Brief Description: Concerning the conforming of apprenticeship program standards to federal labor standards.

Sponsors: Representatives Hudgins, Reykdal, Appleton and Moeller; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes state apprenticeship law to conform to federal apprenticeship regulations by transferring rulemaking authority for apprenticeship from the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council to the Department of Labor and Industries.

Hearing Date: 1/14/11

Staff: Alison Hellberg (786-7152).

Background:

The Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (Council) establishes apprenticeship program standards, approves apprenticeship training programs, and otherwise governs the programs. The state Department of Labor and Industries (Department) encourages and promotes apprenticeship agreements, records apprenticeship agreements, and otherwise aids the Council in carrying out its functions.

The Secretary of the United States Department of Labor delegates to the state authority to certify apprenticeship programs for federal purposes. Employers of apprentices in certified programs may pay the apprentices less than journey-level wages on public works jobs. Apprentices that complete certified programs are recognized as qualified journey workers nationwide. The Secretary delegates authority only if state apprenticeship law conforms with federal apprenticeship regulations.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Changes in federal regulations in December of 2008 require that a state apprenticeship agency, and not a state apprenticeship council, have responsibility and accountability for apprenticeship within the state. States must be in compliance with these changes by December 29, 2010.

Summary of Bill:

The Department is the agency with responsibility and accountability for apprenticeship within the state for federal purposes. The Director of the Department, rather than the Council has rulemaking authority for apprenticeship. The Director must consult with the Council and receive the Council's recommendations prior to adopting rules. Any decision of the Council affecting registration and oversight of apprenticeship programs and agreements may be appealed to the Director within 30 days of a Council decision.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.