
SENATE BILL 5600

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Holy, Conway, Das, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Liiias, Lovelett, Lovick, Randall, Rivers, Robinson, Saldaña, Salomon, Stanford, Trudeau, Wagoner, Warnick, Wellman, and C. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to the sustainability and expansion of state
2 registered apprenticeship programs; amending RCW 49.04.050; adding
3 new sections to chapter 49.04 RCW; creating new sections; and
4 providing expiration dates.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state has maintained a robust
7 registered apprenticeship system that has created tens of thousands
8 of high-skill, high-wage careers in traditional apprenticeship
9 programs that are financially stable and jointly managed to ensure
10 future generations of apprentices for high demand occupations. The
11 earn while you learn apprenticeship model opens opportunities to
12 diverse groups and communities that have not been able to access
13 traditional higher education and traditional apprenticeship programs
14 in the past. The COVID-19 pandemic has also created a significant
15 dislocation and disruption of our workforce that can be repaired in
16 part by reconnecting workers with innovative apprenticeships that
17 lead to new career pathways. To achieve the goals of rebuilding a
18 robust postpandemic workforce and undertaking active efforts to
19 provide equity, diversity, and inclusion in apprenticeship programs
20 will take sustained effort and support.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 49.04
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The apprenticeship council must establish economic or
4 industry sector-based subcommittees to promote collaboration within
5 each subcommittee's respective industry and to periodically review
6 the required competencies and curricula for apprenticeship programs
7 in each subcommittee's respective economic or industry sector.

8 (2) Subcommittees must be established to encourage development of
9 apprenticeship programs in the areas of building trades,
10 manufacturing and engineering, health care and behavioral health,
11 education and early learning, information and communications
12 technology, biotechnology and life sciences, hospitality, state
13 agencies, maritime, and other identified economic or industry growth
14 sectors.

15 (3) The department of labor and industries must assign an
16 industry liaison to support each subcommittee.

17 (4) The subcommittees must report at least annually to the
18 apprenticeship council on the following within their economic or
19 industry sector:

- 20 (a) Participation in existing approved apprenticeship programs;
21 (b) Progress in developing new apprenticeship programs; and
22 (c) Any review of competencies and curricula.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 49.04
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 The governor shall establish a committee of state agency human
26 resources managers to undertake the development of appropriate
27 apprenticeship programs for state agencies, involving the collective
28 bargaining representatives for their agencies as potential
29 apprenticeship pathways are considered and developed. The current
30 registered apprenticeship program for industrial insurance at the
31 department of labor and industries shall be consulted as a model for
32 other agencies.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 49.04.050 and 2011 c 308 s 4 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) To be eligible for registration, apprenticeship program
36 standards must conform to the rules adopted under this chapter.

37 (2) The department of labor and industries must require new
38 apprenticeship programs seeking approval to provide a plan for future

1 sustainability of the program. No apprenticeship program may be
2 approved without demonstrating that within 10 years of approval the
3 program will be financially sustainable independent of any state
4 funds provided to start the program.

5 (3) When evaluating applications for new apprenticeship programs,
6 the apprenticeship council must consider whether graduating
7 apprentices will earn a living wage, the availability of a career
8 ladder to graduating apprentices, or the existence of other nonwage
9 benefits as factors in the approval process.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 49.04
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) A grant program for technology and remote learning
13 infrastructure modernization of state registered apprenticeships is
14 established.

15 (2) The department of labor and industries must manage and
16 oversee the grant program and may establish application procedures
17 and criteria for the receipt of grants. The department of labor and
18 industries must require grant applications to include a plan to
19 sustain the technology and remote learning infrastructure over time
20 independent of any state funds provided.

21 (3) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
22 specific purpose, the department of labor and industries may award
23 one-time grants to existing state registered joint apprenticeship
24 programs for modernizing technology and remote learning
25 infrastructure.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 49.04
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1) A grant program for wrap-around support services to mitigate
29 barriers to beginning or participating in state registered
30 apprenticeship programs is established. Support services shall
31 include provisions for child care, health care, transportation to job
32 sites, and other support services necessary to mitigate barriers to
33 beginning or participating in state registered apprenticeship
34 programs.

35 (2) The department of labor and industries must manage and
36 oversee the grant program and may establish application procedures
37 and criteria for the receipt of grants.

1 (3) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
2 specific purpose, the department of labor and industries may award
3 grants to nonprofit organizations and joint apprenticeship training
4 committees that support individuals currently in, or seeking to
5 enter, state registered apprenticeship programs by providing, or
6 connecting apprentices to, wrap-around services, including child
7 care, professional clothing, required tools, or transportation.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 49.04
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) A grant program for updating equipment in existing state
11 registered apprenticeship programs is established.

12 (2) The department of labor and industries must manage and
13 oversee the grant program and may establish application procedures
14 and criteria for the receipt of grants.

15 (3) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
16 specific purpose, the department of labor and industries may award
17 grants to existing state registered joint apprenticeship programs to
18 upgrade equipment necessary for the program.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 49.04
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
22 specific purpose, the department of labor and industries must provide
23 vouchers to cover the cost of driver's education courses for students
24 enrolled in a state registered youth apprenticeship program.

25 (2) The department of labor and industries may establish
26 application and award procedures for implementing this section.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 49.04
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) The department of labor and industries must conduct an
30 apprentice retention study of state registered apprentices. The study
31 must collect data from apprentices that are six months into their
32 apprenticeships on the barriers and challenges new apprentices
33 encounter that may prevent them from continuing their
34 apprenticeships.

35 (2) The department of labor and industries must aggregate the
36 data collected in subsection (1) of this section by trade and post
37 the data on a dashboard on its public website annually.

1 (3) The department of labor and industries must use the data
2 collected under this section to work with apprenticeship coordinators
3 to implement an early alert response system to connect apprentices
4 with needed support and wrap-around services.

5 (4) By December 1, 2026, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
6 the department of labor and industries must submit a report to the
7 legislature on its key findings on the barriers and challenges in
8 retaining apprentices and its recommendations.

9 (5) This section expires December 31, 2027.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The department of labor and
11 industries must develop a list of options for incentivizing
12 apprenticeship utilization in the private sector, especially in
13 nontraditional industries that have lower apprenticeship utilization
14 rates.

15 (2) By December 1, 2022, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
16 the department of labor and industries must submit a report to the
17 legislature detailing the list of options for incentivizing
18 apprenticeship utilization developed in subsection (1) of this
19 section.

20 (3) This section expires December 31, 2023.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) By December 1, 2022, and in
22 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the office of the superintendent of
23 public instruction, in collaboration with career connect Washington,
24 must submit a report to the legislature detailing the requirements
25 and options for, and any barriers to, high schools in this state
26 having a career pathways day once per year for students in their
27 junior year of high school on a teacher professional development day,
28 including any recommendations on necessary legislative actions.

29 (2) This section expires December 31, 2023.

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