

CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
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**CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL 2025
THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Chairperson Yvonne de la Peña

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- a. Chairperson De la Peña called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00pm.
- b. DAS Chief Adele Burnes conducted the roll call.
 - i. Members Present: Yvonne de la Peña, Charles “Chuck” Poss III, Larry Hopkins, Gary Adams, Shelley Doran, and DAS Chief Adele Burnes.
 - ii. Members Absent: Mark Burri, Jason Rafter.

II. Review/Approve Previous Minutes

- a. Members approved the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on May 7, 2025.

III. Review of New Bills

- a. Chairperson De la Peña discussed current bills within the California Legislature related to apprenticeship. Additional details about all related bills are provided in the public handout labeled “CAC Bills Report” under the Legislation Committee Meeting materials for the 3rd Quarter of the [CAC Public Meetings 2025 webpage](#).
- b. CAC-specific Bills
 - i. AB 401: Held under submission (no action, may be revived or amended).
 - ii. AB 889: Prevailing wage per diem wages; hearing scheduled for August 18.

- iii. Salton Sea Restoration Project: Mandates use of skilled and trained workforce for contractors, providing economic benefits and living wage jobs in Imperial Valley.
 - iv. AB 286: Originally about apprenticeship fairs, now amended to address electricity rate reductions.
 - v. AB 805: Career Apprenticeship Bridge Program; two-year bill, no recent movement.
 - vi. SB 638: CTE Pathways Grant Program; no updates.
 - vii. AB 862: California School Dashboard for college/career pathway data; held under submission.
 - viii. SB 75: Pre-apprenticeship pathways employment pilot program; no changes.
 - ix. SB 241: Community colleges personnel qualifications; moving through third reading, clarifies that apprenticeship instructors must be “natural persons” (not AI).
 - x. SB 657: Personal income tax; held under submission.
 - xi. SB 711: Taxation of federal conformity for apprenticeship expenses; no change.
 - xii. SB 845: Career Technical Education framework; two-year bill, author canceled last hearing.
 - xiii. AB 345: Apprenticeship programs approval process; held under submission.
 - xiv. SB 803: California Conservation Corps green collar certification program; held under submission, could affect both IACA and CAC programs.
- c. IACA-specific Bills
- i. All IACA bills listed (including fast food worker apprenticeship and teacher credentialing) have seen no changes since the last meeting. These bills remain on the committee’s watch list for future developments.
- d. Budget Bills
- i. AB 102, SB 101: Main budget and trailer bills.
 - ii. AB 123: Higher education trailer bill, includes additional dollars for apprenticeship shortfall (\$6.33 million for unfunded hours).

IV. Governor’s Budget Review

- a. The state faced a significant budget shortfall, resulting in cuts, deferrals, and use of the rainy day fund.
- b. Despite the fiscal challenges, apprenticeship and workforce development remained a priority for both the legislature and the governor.
- c. Key Apprenticeship Investments
 - i. Reimbursement Rate: Raised to \$10.32 per hour.
 - ii. Shortfall Funding: Additional dollars allocated to cover unfunded hours from 2021–22 and 2022–23, exceeding \$5 million.
 - iii. Pre-Apprenticeship Programs: Notable investment in EMT and paramedic pre-apprenticeship programs, especially for fire service. These programs provide free training, childcare, mileage, tutoring, mentorship, and cover all state registration fees for participants.
 - iv. Expansion and Upgrades: Funding supports upgrading firefighter EMTs to paramedics, with hybrid class schedules to accommodate shift work.
 - v. Recent Grant: Assemblywoman Kalra presented a \$10 million check for continued EMT/paramedic pre-apprenticeship expansion, enabling 13 more classes over three years.
 - vi. Community College Partnership: Dollars flow through the Chancellor’s Office, partnering with community colleges for college credit and program expansion.
 - vii. Prop 98 Funding: Schools remain in “Test 1” (40% of state general fund revenues), which boosts funding but increases volatility.
 - viii. Workforce Development Agency: \$2.1 billion in state funding, \$927 million to DIR.
 - ix. CAC Training Funds: Budget change proposal increased annual grants from \$3 million to \$20 million for apprenticeship training contribution fund.
 - x. Other Investments: Funding for LA area fire recovery, Career Technical Education Workforce Program, and rebuilding efforts.
 - xi. Women in Construction Priority Program: \$14.9 million allocated for continued support of ERICA grants.

V. Other Items of Interest/Public Comment

- a. Governor’s Budget Review
 - i. Commissioners and staff expressed satisfaction with continued

prioritization of apprenticeship despite broader budget cuts.

- ii. Anticipation of further reports and details from the Chancellor's Office and DAS in subsequent meetings.

b. AB 692 (Kalra) – Employment Contracts and Apprenticeship Agreements

- i. Richard Marcus (Public): Raised concerns about AB 692, which expands prohibitions on employment contracts requiring repayment for instruction, tools, or uniforms. The bill was amended to exempt apprenticeship agreements, which could allow contractors to require apprentices to repay training costs if they leave.
- ii. Discussion: Marcus noted this exemption seems inconsistent with apprenticeship ideals and is not standard practice among contractors. Assemblymember Kalra's office indicated the amendment was requested by building trades, but rationale remains unclear.
- iii. Commissioner Response: Concerns about the possibility of "indentured servitude" if apprentices are required to repay expensive training (e.g., paramedic school). Commissioners agreed to review the bill further.
- iv. DAS Chief Burnes: Noted existing labor and education codes prohibit charging apprentices unreasonable fees or tuition, but no statute specifically addresses post-program repayment.
- v. Further Discussion: Commissioners and public agreed to investigate the bill's implications and ensure it aligns with apprenticeship principles.

VI. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35am.