

CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
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CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL 2025 LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025
2:00 p.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, Mark Burri (online), Jason Rafter, Gary W. Adams, Shelley Duran, and DAS Chief Adele Burnes.
- c. Members Absent: Larry Hopkins, Earl Restine, and Hugo de la Torre.

II. Review/Approve Previous Minutes

- a. Members approved the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on August 14, 2024.

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 2nd Quarter of the [CAC Public Meetings 2025 webpage](#).
- b. CAC-specific Bills
 - i. AB 401 - Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program
 - 1. Applies a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the CTE grant program and extends it for 4 more years.
 - 2. Aims to reinforce CTE programs through the Department of

Education.

ii. AB 889 - Prevailing Wage Per Diem Wages

1. Makes changes to the annualization rule of fringe benefits for work on public and private construction projects.
2. Aims to ensure employer payments are counted towards the prevailing wage obligation on public works projects.
3. Members discussed the potential impact of the bill on training funds, with clarification provided by DAS (see public comments).

c. CAC/IACA Bills

i. AB 286 - Apprenticeship Fairs

1. Requires school districts to host at least one apprenticeship fair event each year.
2. Members raised concerns about the mandate on schools and the potential resource allocation issues. DAS provided some clarification (see public comments).

ii. AB 805 - Career Apprenticeship Bridge Program

1. Requires DAS to establish and administer a career apprenticeship bridge program and a data system on youth apprenticeship.
2. This bill did not make it out of committee and will be a two-year bill.

iii. AB 1136 - California Workforce Development Board High Road Training Partnerships

1. Expands the definition of high road training partnerships to include partnerships operating across multiple industries.
2. The sponsor, United Food and Commercial Workers, wanted to access the H RTP programs, which were seen as construction centric.

iv. SB 638 - California Education and Workforce Development Coordinating Entity Career Technical Education and Career Pathway Grant Program

1. Establishes CTE and career pathway grant programs for LEAs serving high unemployment or high poverty areas.
2. Allows grant funds to be used for apprenticeships, dual enrollment,

earn and learn, pre-apprenticeship, and work-based learning.

v. SB 75 - Reentry Pilot Project

1. Establishes a 3-county pilot program to provide workforce training and transitional support to formerly incarcerated individuals committed to careers in the skilled trades.

vi. SB 241 - Community Colleges Personnel and Qualification

1. Requires instructors for apprenticeship programs to meet the current qualifications established by law.
2. Members discussed the intent to ensure human instructors, not AI, for courses and the concerning impact of AI on the labor market.

vii. SB 657 - Personal Income Tax Law, Deferred Compensation, Exclusions, Long-Term Qualified Tuition Program

1. Allows distributions from qualified tuition programs to be used for expenses associated with registered apprenticeship programs.

viii. SB 711 - Taxation, Federal Conformity, Qualified Expenses for Registered Apprenticeship Programs

1. Ensures qualified expenses for registered apprenticeship programs are eligible for favorable tax treatment under California law.

ix. SB 845 - Pupil Instruction, Career Technical Education, Career Education and Apprenticeships

1. Revises the process for updating CTE curriculum standards and authorizes the development of occupational frameworks for youth apprenticeship.
2. This bill emerged from the work of the California Youth Apprenticeship Committee.

d. IACA-specific Bills

i. AB 291 - Teachers Credentialed Educator Apprenticeship Program

1. Provides a path for teachers to seek a route that allows them to be paid during their journey to becoming a teacher.
2. Aims to address the financial difficulties faced by those seeking to become teachers without income opportunities.
3. Members discussed the importance of apprenticeship programs in

addressing teacher shortages and providing financial support for aspiring teachers.

ii. AB 345 - Apprenticeship Programs Approval Process

1. Requires DAS to confirm within 30 days whether an application for a new program is complete or incomplete.
2. Provides conditional approval for programs if DAS has not made a final determination within 6 months.
3. Excludes the building and construction trades and firefighters' apprenticeship programs from these deadlines.

iii. AB 912 - People with Disabilities Pilot Civil Service Apprenticeship Program, Environmental Service Technicians, Correctional Facilities

1. Requires the Department of Human Resources and other state agencies to establish a civil service apprenticeship pilot program for people with disabilities to become environmental service technicians in correctional facilities.

iv. SB 803 - California Conservation Corps Green Collar Certification Program

1. Requires the Director of the California Conservation Corps to establish a green collar certification program.
2. Aims to identify emerging workforce needs and establish pathways into registered apprenticeship programs, particularly in renewable energy, environmental restoration, and disaster preparedness sectors.

e. Chaptered Bills

- i. Chairperson De La Peña reviewed several bills that have already been chaptered, including proclamations declaring Women in Construction Week and Apprenticeship Week in California.

IV. Governor's Budget Review

- a. Chairperson De La Peña discussed an overview of Governor Newsom's proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- b. She stated the budget outlook for the upcoming fiscal year is expected to be "ugly" with potential cuts to programs. Specifically, there is a shortfall in the number of training hours funded, estimated around \$15 million for Schedule 3 (LEA side). She emphasized the importance of programs accurately reporting

their training hours to ensure appropriate funding levels.

- c. Legislative advocates are working to maintain current funding levels and address the past shortfalls before seeking additional resources.

V. Other Items of Interest/Public Comment

- a. Christen Harrington, DAS consultant, clarified on AB 286 Apprenticeship Fairs that the previous law required school districts to invite apprenticeship programs to career fairs, while the new bill requires school districts to host apprenticeship fairs.
- b. Meg Vasey, a representative of Tradeswoman Task Force, expressed support for SB 845 on Pupil Instruction, Career Technical Education, Career Education and Apprenticeships. She noted the bill could help address the burden of student debt for teachers and provide a good work practice and experience pathway through apprenticeship.
 - i. She also noted that the federal government had changed Apprenticeship Week to Apprenticeship Day and inquired about the state's plans for future Apprenticeship Week celebrations.
- c. Ken Lau, Chief Counsel of the Department of Industrial Relations, provided an explanation of the annualization principle and how the bill aims to ensure that employers can only take credit for the benefits they provide on public works projects, not on private jobs.
- d. Benjamin Rivera, a representative of Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, discussed how the bill could impact apprentices working for non-signatory contractors, potentially protecting their benefit packaged and wages during that time.

VI. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00pm.