

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 POLICY COMMITTEE
4 RECOMMENDATION

5 FOR

6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2210

7 By: Lay

8 POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

9 An Act relating to career and technology education;
10 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-127, which relates
11 to youth apprenticeship programs; modifying the
12 applicable age range; detailing when high school
13 students may begin the program; directing the
14 Department of Career and Technology Education to
15 oversee and implement the program; requiring
16 apprenticeship coordinators and describing their
17 duties; defining and requiring workplace mentors;
18 granting oversight to the Secretary of Education;
19 requiring certain reports; appropriating funds to
20 carry out the program; providing for noncodification;
21 and providing an effective date.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-127, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 Section 14-127. A. The Oklahoma Legislature, recognizing the
26 need for improved methods of helping ~~secondary students~~ youth
27 sixteen (16) to twenty-five (25) years of age make a ~~smooth~~
28 meaningful transition from high school to the workplace, hereby

1 establishes guidelines for youth apprenticeship programs. It shall
2 be the responsibility of the Oklahoma Department of Career and
3 Technology Education to establish a state-certified apprenticeship
4 program. The Board shall establish the rules to carry out the state
5 apprenticeship program.

6 B. Youth apprenticeship programs shall be defined as learning
7 programs for young people enrolled in vocational education that
8 combine ~~on-the-job~~ work-based learning with classroom instruction,
9 that offer a bridge between secondary and post high school training
10 and education, and that result in certification of mastery of work
11 skills.

12 C. A high school student may begin participation in an
13 apprenticeship beginning in the eleventh grade. Students who do not
14 begin participation during the eleventh grade may enter a pre-
15 apprenticeship or a full apprenticeship during the twelfth grade,
16 subject to employer need and program design. Students must be at
17 least sixteen (16) years of age to begin paid employment at a
18 workplace but related instruction may be completed before a student
19 turns sixteen (16) years of age. High school students who enter an
20 Oklahoma-certified apprenticeship program shall be given equal
21 credit to an Oklahoma CareerTech-approved full-time postsecondary
22 program.

23 D. The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education
24 shall fund apprenticeship coordinators. Apprenticeship coordinators

1 shall serve as the main liaison among school districts, industry
2 consortia, and hosting employers. Apprenticeship coordinators shall
3 also be responsible for guiding apprenticeship approval, providing
4 technical assistance to employers, site-based mentors, and school
5 districts, collecting site-level data on approved apprenticeships,
6 forming industry consortia, and chairing semi-annual industry
7 consortia meetings. Apprenticeship coordinators shall have a
8 caseload of apprenticeships to manage at their sites. After the
9 first year of operation, Oklahoma Department of Career and
10 Technology Education may move apprenticeship coordinators based on
11 varying local capacity for apprenticeships. The Oklahoma Department
12 of Career and Technology Education shall work to ensure that
13 apprenticeship opportunities are comparable in rural, suburban, and
14 urban areas.

15 E. A "workplace mentor" refers to an experienced employee who
16 provides direct supervision, instruction, and support for high
17 school apprentices, ensuring that an apprentice receives the skills
18 needed for a recognized credential and a clear pathway to full-time
19 employment in a skilled occupation. Each high school apprenticeship
20 shall have a site-based mentor.

21 F. The Secretary of Education shall provide statewide oversight
22 of all Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education-
23 approved high school apprenticeship programs. An annual report
24 shall be submitted to the Legislature that includes, but is not

1 limited to, the number of high school apprenticeships currently
2 enrolled, the number of high school apprenticeships completed, the
3 estimated return on investment of completed apprenticeships to the
4 state, and capacity differences across rural, suburban, and urban
5 areas of the state.

6 G. The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education
7 shall contract with an Oklahoma-based external evaluator or
8 Oklahoma-based university researcher to conduct a comprehensive
9 return on investment and impact evaluation of approved high school
10 apprenticeship programs. This report shall be submitted to the
11 Secretary of Education annually to inform the Secretary of
12 Education's annual report to the Legislature. This external
13 evaluation will be used to make annual funding determinations. The
14 cost of the evaluation shall not exceed Twelve Thousand Dollars
15 (\$12,000.00).

16 ~~C.~~ H. Youth apprenticeship programs shall be administered and
17 supervised by the State Board of Career and Technology Education,
18 which shall also establish standards for program operation.

19 ~~D.~~ I. Notwithstanding any other section of law, youth
20 apprenticeship programs shall not mean any traditional
21 apprenticeship program registered by the Bureau of Apprenticeship
22 and Training, United States Department of Labor.

23 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
24 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

1 There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma Department of
2 Career and Technology Education from any monies not otherwise
3 appropriated from the General Fund of the State Treasury for the
4 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the sum of Two Million Dollars
5 (\$2,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to perform
6 the duties imposed upon the Oklahoma Department of Career and
7 Technology to carry out the youth apprenticeship program as directed
8 in Section 1 of this act.

9 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

10 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
11 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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