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March 3, 2026

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 1480

By: Seifried

An Act relating to career and technology education; directing the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education to establish certain pilot program beginning in certain school year; directing the Department to designate two technology center school districts to coordinate with public school districts; directing certain technology center school districts to designate employees to serve as apprenticeship coordinators; providing duties of coordinators; allowing certain students to participate in apprenticeship opportunities and be paid for work; directing certain participants to indemnify and hold harmless certain participating employers; providing exceptions; requiring execution of certain agreement on a form prescribed by the Department; requiring electronic submission of certain report by certain date; providing for contents of report; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 14-127A of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education shall establish a two-

1 year apprenticeship pilot program to encourage participation in
2 youth apprenticeship programs.

3 B. The Department shall designate two technology center school
4 districts to coordinate with public school districts in this state
5 to make apprenticeship opportunities available to students.

6 C. A technology center school district designated to
7 participate in the pilot program created pursuant to this section
8 shall designate a district employee to serve as an apprenticeship
9 coordinator. The duties of an apprenticeship coordinator shall
10 include, but not be limited to:

11 1. Building relationships with employers in the area served by
12 the technology center school district to maximize availability of
13 apprenticeship opportunities;

14 2. Facilitating high school student participation in
15 apprenticeship opportunities; and

16 3. Coordinating with public school districts participating in
17 the pilot program.

18 D. Students who are age sixteen (16) and older and enrolled in
19 a public school district participating in the pilot program may
20 participate in an apprenticeship opportunity and may be paid for
21 work conducted as part of an apprenticeship opportunity.

22 E. 1. Public school districts and students that participate in
23 an apprenticeship opportunity pursuant to this section shall agree
24 to indemnify and hold harmless employers offering the apprenticeship

1 opportunity from claims arising from student participation except in
2 cases of gross negligence, willful misconduct, or a clear violation
3 of law.

4 2. Public school districts and students who are age eighteen
5 (18) and older or the parents or legal guardians of students who are
6 under the age of eighteen (18) shall execute an apprenticeship
7 participation agreement that indemnifies participating employers
8 from claims arising from student participation in an approved
9 apprenticeship opportunity. The Oklahoma Department of Career and
10 Technology Education shall prescribe the apprenticeship
11 participation agreement form required by this subsection.

12 F. The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education
13 shall electronically submit a report to the Governor, the President
14 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives by December 1, 2028, that includes an evaluation of
16 the pilot program by participating public school districts and
17 technology center school districts, data on whether the pilot
18 program had an impact on increasing student participation in
19 apprenticeship opportunities, and recommendations for continuation
20 of the program.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

22 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
24

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
4 March 3, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS
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