

HOUSE BILL 859

By Thompson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 49; Title 62 and Title 67, relative to  
apprenticeships and work-study programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 7, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) There is established within the department the office of apprenticeship and work-study programs.

(b)

(1) The commissioner shall appoint a director of the office, in consultation with the Tennessee higher education commission (THEC), the Tennessee board of regents (TBR), the department of education, and the department of labor.

(2) The staff of the office must be appointed by the director of the office, subject to the joint approval of the executive director of THEC and the commissioner.

(c) The office shall:

(1) Promote federally certified apprenticeship and work-study programs to assist industries that have needs for such programs, either through traditional apprenticeship programs administered by the department or work-study programs administered by the department of education;

(2) Establish industry consortiums in which the apprenticeship and work-study programs are organized by industry and where companies can participate to best meet their individual needs;

(3) Maintain complete and consistent program data on the:

(A) Number of persons placed in apprenticeship and work-study programs established under subdivision (c)(1);

(B) Amount of any tax credits that are authorized under title 67 for the purposes of promoting apprenticeship programs or other similar programs. The department of revenue shall provide the data required to be maintained under this subdivision (c)(3)(B), subject to any applicable confidentiality requirements; and

(C) Number of job placements that result from student participation in apprenticeship and work-study programs established pursuant to this section;

(4) Employ such personnel as may be necessary to implement and administer this section, with expenses to be paid from funding received pursuant to subsection (d); and

(5) Perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary for the administration of apprenticeship and work-study programs established under this section.

(d)

(1) The activities and expenses of the office may be jointly funded by the participating industries through a fee in an amount determined through rule by the department. The office shall collect fees pursuant to this subsection (d) in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of operating the office.

(2) The office may seek any available grants and other sources of funding to implement and administer this section.

(e) The office shall work in conjunction with the division of regulatory boards of the department of commerce and insurance to accomplish the functions and duties set out in subsection (c).

(f) The office must be audited in conjunction with the audit of the department by the comptroller of the treasury for purposes of chapter 29 of this title.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of economic and community development;

(2) "Department" means the department of economic and community development; and

(3) "Office" means the office of apprenticeship and work-study programs.

(h) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 62, Chapter 76, is amended by deleting Part 2 and substituting instead the following:

**62-76-201.**

(a) The boards and commissions created in this title, in consultation with the division of regulatory boards within the department of commerce and insurance, shall develop and maintain an apprenticeship program for use by such boards and commissions.

(b) The program developed pursuant to subsection (a) must include, but not be limited to, the subjects of:

(1) Apprenticeship training;

(2) Supervisory standards;

(3) Occupational instruction;

(4) Wages and benefits;

(5) Licensure; and

(6) The role of the division of regulatory boards in implementing and maintaining the program.

(c) Each of the boards and commissions shall submit a report on the status of the apprenticeship program to the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the government operations committees of the senate and house of representatives, the commissioner of commerce and insurance, the commissioner of health, and the commissioner of labor and workforce development on or before December 31 of each year. The report must include the following:

(1)

(A) The reason the apprenticeship program was created; and

(B) The reason the apprenticeship program is no longer in effect, if applicable;

(2) Historical data on the apprenticeship program since its creation, including:

(A) The number of persons participating in the program each year; and

(B) Program outcomes, including the percentage of program participants who have continued in their chosen fields;

(3) A description of the apprenticeship program and its objectives; and

(4)

(A) The number of persons licensed in each profession regulated by such boards and commissions for the existing calendar year; and

(B) The number of persons employed in each profession regulated by such boards and commissions for the existing calendar year.

SECTION 3. This act will not be construed to divert any federal funds from the department of labor and workforce development or change in any way the department's duties to administer programs that are funded by federal funds.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.