



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Apprenticeships to count towards Oregon's education goals

HB 4058A recognizes apprenticeships as part of the 'middle 40' in Oregon's 40-40-20 goal

SALEM – Today the Oregon Senate voted to incorporate apprenticeships into the state's education goals. House Bill 4058A, which includes apprenticeship programs as a part of the middle 40% completion rates within the state's 40-40-20 goal, passed on a vote of 29-0.

"A journeyman's card is a ticket to prosperity, but right now we're not giving apprenticeships their due as a critical part of post-secondary education in Oregon," said Senator Michael Dembrow (D-Portland). "Thanks to this bill, more young people will be guided towards good, family-wage jobs and careers in the trades."

In 2011, the Legislature adopted a new mission for education in Oregon: by 2025, at least 40 percent of Oregonians earning a bachelor's degree or higher, 40 percent earning an associate's degree or post-secondary credential, and 20 percent earning a high school diploma or equivalent as their highest level of education. House Bill 4058A adds clarity to this goal by stating specifically that registered apprenticeship programs count towards the 'middle 40' of the state's 40-40-20 goal.

"If we're serious about helping the next generation compete in a global economy, we must provide more opportunities for job training, whether that's at a community college, a university, or through an apprenticeship," said Senator Mark Hass, author of the legislation that created the 40-40-20 goal. "Increasing our focus on technical training will put more young Oregonians on the path from high school to the middle class."

Apprenticeships serve as a rigorous occupational training opportunity for new workers by combining on-the-job work experience with classroom instruction. According to the Bureau of Labor and Industries' Apprenticeship and Training Division, there are 121 different occupations that train workers as apprentices in Oregon, with thousands of apprentices currently registered in Oregon.

“Apprenticeships offer a unique, intense, on-the-job training experience that you just can’t get anywhere else,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “Including apprenticeships in our education goals will help more Oregonians find their way into the middle class with skilled, family-wage jobs.”

In 2013, the Legislature passed SB 782, which requires any state contract over \$5 million to use apprenticeships for 10 percent of the work. Starting in 2018, that percentage of apprentice work will increase to 12 percent. During the same session, the Legislature also provided \$9 million in new funding towards Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in K-12 schools.

House Bill 4058A now returns to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration of amendments made in the Senate.

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