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**AB-1731 Apprenticeships: training funds: audits.** (2017-2018)

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**Assembly Bill No. 1731**

**CHAPTER 94**

An act to amend Section 88600 of the Education Code, relating to apprenticeships.

[ Approved by Governor July 21, 2017. Filed with Secretary of State July 21, 2017. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1731, Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy. Apprenticeships: training funds: audits.

Existing law, the California Community Colleges Economic Workforce Development Program (program), encourages continued coordination between schools that maintain kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and higher education systems to advance career technical education, as specified. Under existing law, the board of governors may award grants and project funds to districts for leadership in accomplishing the mission and goals of the program, provided that funds are appropriated for this purpose in the annual Budget Act. Grants under this section are awarded on a competitive basis, as determined by the board of governors and authorized in the annual Budget Act. Existing law requires the program to operate according to specified principles.

Under existing law, the California Apprenticeship Council, in the Division of Apprenticeship Standards, among other duties, cooperates in the development of apprenticeship programs and advises the programs on problems affecting apprenticeship standards.

This bill would revise the principles upon which the California Community Colleges Economic Workforce Development Program operates to require the program to provide guidance to local educational agencies on the allocation and oversight of apprenticeship training funds, consistent with the rules set by the California Apprenticeship Council.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) In November 2016, the California State Auditor issued an audit of the apprenticeship program, California State Auditor Report 2016-110. Specifically, the audit examined the programs offered through the Air Conditioning Trade Association.

(b) As part of its examination, the California State Auditor found a number of areas where existing law could be strengthened to ensure greater accountability for state program dollars and increase oversight practices to be consistent and more effective.

(1) More specifically, the California State Auditor recommended that the Legislature should amend state law to provide the apprenticeship division with explicit authority to verify that as a condition of receiving future grant funds, apprenticeship programs are using state funds solely for training apprentices. In addition, if an apprenticeship program is unable to

demonstrate how state funds are used or if it is found to be using funds for inappropriate purposes, the apprenticeship division should have the authority to deregister that particular program.

(2) To ensure accountability, the Legislature should amend state law to clarify that the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges has the authority to provide accounting guidance and to conduct audits of the K–12 local educational agencies' oversight of apprenticeship training funds.

**SEC. 2.** Section 88600 of the Education Code is amended to read:

**88600.** (a) The economic and workforce development program shall operate according to all of the following principles:

- (1) The program shall be responsive to the needs of employers, workers, and students.
- (2) The program shall collaborate with other public institutions, aligning resources to foster cooperation across workforce education and service delivery systems, and building well-articulated career pathways.
- (3) Program decisions shall be data driven and evidence based, investing resources and adopting practices on the basis of what works.
- (4) The program shall develop strong partnerships with the private sector, ensuring industry involvement in needs assessment, planning, and program evaluation.
- (5) The program shall be outcome oriented and accountable, measuring results for program participants, including students, employers, and workers.
- (6) The program shall be accessible to employers, workers, and students who may benefit from its operation.
- (7) The program shall provide guidance to local educational agencies on the allocation and oversight of apprenticeship training funds, consistent with the rules set by the California Apprenticeship Council.

(b) The mission of the economic and workforce development program is to do all of the following:

- (1) To advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement.
- (2) To advance California's economic and jobs recovery and sustain economic growth through labor market-aligned education workforce training services, and sector strategies focusing on continuous workforce improvement, technology deployment, and business development, to meet the needs of California's competitive and emerging industry sectors and industry clusters.
- (3) To use labor market information to advise the chancellor's office and regional community college bodies on the workforce needs of California's competitive and emerging industry sectors and industry clusters, in accordance with both of the following:
  - (A) To the extent possible, the economic and workforce development program shall work with, share information with, and consider the labor market analyses produced by, the Employment Development Department's Labor Market Information Division and the California Workforce Investment Board.
  - (B) The economic and workforce development program may also use its own resources to bolster and refine these labor market and industry sector and industry cluster analyses to fulfill its mission.
- (4) To provide technical assistance and logistical, technical, and communications infrastructure support that engenders alignment between the career technical education programs of the community college system and the needs of California's competitive and emerging industry sectors and industry clusters.
- (5) To collaborate and coordinate investment with other state, regional, or local agencies involved in education and workforce training in California, including, but not necessarily limited to, the California Workforce Investment Board, local workforce investment boards, the Employment Training Panel, the State Department of Education, and the Employment Development Department.
- (6) To identify, acquire, and leverage community college and other financial and in-kind public and private resources to support economic and workforce development and the career technical education programs of the state's community colleges.
- (7) To work with representatives of business, labor, and professional trade associations to explore and develop alternatives for assisting incumbent workers in the state's competitive and emerging industry sectors. A key objective is to enable incumbent workers to become more competitive in their region's labor market, increase competency, and identify career pathways to economic self-sufficiency, economic security, and lifelong access to good-paying jobs.