

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1831

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

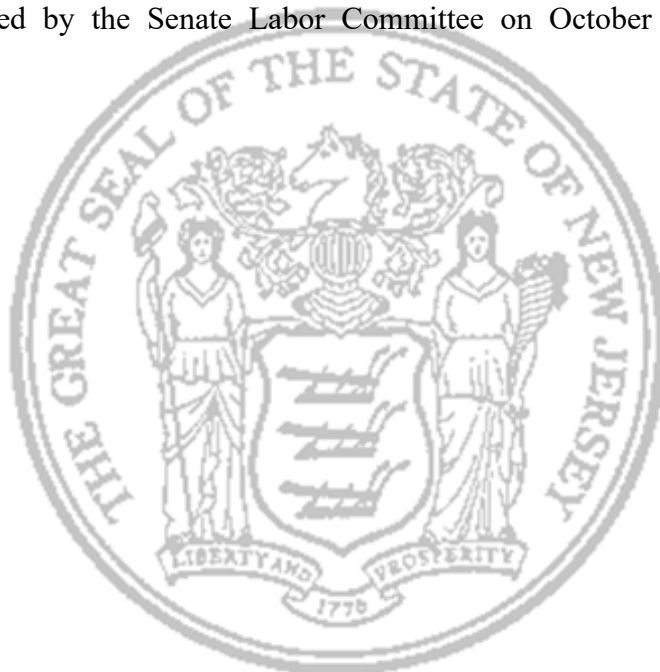
Senator McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Statewide youth apprenticeship program; appropriates \$25 million annually.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Labor Committee on October 1, 2026, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/1/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning apprenticeship programs and supplementing
2 Title 34 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. It is critical for New Jersey to invest in non-traditional
9 pathways to high-wage careers, particularly for those residents who
10 cannot afford or do not wish to pursue four-year college degrees.

11 b. The New Jersey Apprenticeship Network, which develops and
12 strengthens apprenticeship programs throughout the State to
13 increase opportunities for youths and adults, has demonstrated
14 success since its inception, but the State needs expansion into more
15 industries and demographics to continue growing apprenticeship
16 opportunities throughout the State.

17 c. States like Washington and California have successfully linked
18 youth apprenticeships to high school and community college
19 pathways, reducing student debt and improving workforce
20 outcomes.

21 d. It would be fitting for New Jersey to follow suit and expand
22 apprenticeship opportunities Statewide.

23 e. This act will ensure that apprenticeships are treated as a first-
24 class option for youth in New Jersey.

25
26 2. a. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and
27 Workplace Development shall establish a dedicated youth
28 apprenticeship program for students aged 16 to 21 years old. The
29 program shall include, but not be limited to, creating career-
30 connected learning in high school for students in 11th grade and
31 12th grade; combining paid, on-the-job training with dual-
32 enrollment in community colleges; and creating pre-apprenticeship
33 pathways into registered programs in high-demand sectors,
34 including but not limited to health care, information technology,
35 advanced manufacturing, and green jobs.

36 b. The commissioner, in consultation with the New Jersey
37 Council of County Colleges, established pursuant to
38 N.J.S.18A:64A-26, shall develop standardized curriculum for
39 apprenticeship-related instruction; create a program to offer no-cost
40 related technical instruction to apprentices; and expand the college
41 credit for apprenticeship initiative, awarding credit for on-the-job
42 training.

43 c. (1) Employers that participate in the program established
44 pursuant to this section shall be provided with up to \$5,000 per

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SLA committee amendments adopted October 1, 2026.

1 apprentice in tax credits or direct grants, provided that certain
2 criteria are met, including but not limited to: paying apprentices at
3 least 60 percent of journey person wages, escalating annually;
4 committing to non-discriminatory recruitment and retention
5 practices; and reporting annually to the department demographics,
6 wage progression, and completion rates of apprentices.

7 ¹An employer engaged in the construction industry shall not be
8 eligible for the tax credit and direct grant payments provided for in
9 this paragraph.¹

10 (2) The amount of the tax credit otherwise allowable under this
11 subsection which cannot be applied for the privilege period may be
12 carried forward, if necessary, to the four privilege periods following
13 the privilege period for which a portion of the tax credit was
14 allowed. A New Jersey S Corporation shall not be allowed a tax
15 credit pursuant to this subsection directly, but the amount of the tax
16 credit of a taxpayer in respect of a pro rata share of S Corporation
17 income, shall be determined by allocating to the taxpayer that
18 proportion of the tax credit acquired by the New Jersey S
19 Corporation that is equal to the taxpayer's share, whether or not
20 distributed, of the total pro rata share of S Corporation income of
21 the New Jersey S Corporation for its privilege period ending within
22 or with the taxpayer's taxable year.

23 d. State agencies and public contractors of large capital projects
24 shall develop or participate in registered apprenticeship programs.
25 Priority shall be given to green energy and public infrastructure
26 apprenticeships and partnerships with union-based Joint
27 Apprenticeship Training Committees (JATCs).

28 e. The department shall issue an annual report, published on the
29 department's Internet website that includes, but is not limited to:

30 (1) apprenticeship participation by industry, gender, race,
31 ethnicity, and geography;

32 (2) ¹the number of participants that have successfully
33 transitioned from pre-apprenticeship to registered apprenticeship.¹
34 completion rates and post-apprenticeship employment outcomes;¹
35 and¹

36 (3) State savings from reduced reliance on student aid and
37 unemployment insurance¹; and

38 (4) the amount of funding provided by the program¹.

39 f. ¹(1)¹ Employment and training services funded by the
40 program shall not replace, supplant, compete with or duplicate in
41 any way approved apprenticeship programs.

42 ¹(2) The department shall review proposed apprenticeship
43 programs for improper duplication or displacement of existing
44 apprenticeship programs.

45 (3) The department shall provide sponsors of existing
46 apprenticeship programs with a reasonable opportunity to submit
47 objections to the department before funding is awarded, and

1 (4) The department may require corrective action, suspend or
2 terminate funding, or recover funding expended in violation of this
3 act.

4 g. Nothing in this act shall authorize the department or the New
5 Jersey Council of Community Colleges to supersede the approved
6 curricula, entrance requirements, selection procedures, or training
7 standards of established registered apprenticeship programs.¹

8
9 3. a. There is established in the Department of Labor and
10 ¹**["Workplace"]** Workforce¹ Development a fund to be known as the
11 "Apprenticeship Advancement Fund" to effectuate the purposes of
12 this act, including but not limited to providing start-up grants for
13 newly registered apprenticeship programs; tuition-free related
14 technical instruction at public vocational schools and community
15 colleges; and wraparound support services for qualified low-income
16 apprentices, including ¹**["but not limited to"]**¹ transportation,
17 childcare, ¹**["and"]**¹ tools¹, protective equipment, work clothing,
18 examination fees, and other expenses that prevent young workers from
19 entering or completing an apprenticeship¹.

20 b. ¹The department shall prioritize quality construction pre-
21 apprenticeship programs operated by, or in formal partnership with,
22 registered apprenticeship sponsors, with priority given to union-
23 based Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees. These programs
24 shall demonstrate a documented pathway into registered
25 apprenticeships rather than offering standalone training.

26 c.¹ Commencing in Fiscal Year 2026 there shall be appropriated
27 annually from the General Fund to the fund established in
28 subsection a. of this section the amount of \$25 million to effectuate
29 the purposes of this act.

30
31 4. The commissioner may adopt regulations pursuant to the
32 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
33 seq.) to carry out the purposes of this act.

34
35 5. This act shall take effect immediately.