

"AN ACT ENABLING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS IN CERTAIN JOB CLASSIFICATIONS IN STATE GOVERNMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Definition. As used in this Act, the term "Director", unless otherwise indicated, means the Director of the Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State Department of Education.

SECTION 2. Apprenticeship program. (a) The Vocational and Technical Division of the State Department of Education shall develop and monitor apprenticeship programs for all State agencies that have employees working in apprenticeable trades which are, or may be, recognized by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

(b) These apprenticeship programs shall be developed and conducted in a manner that will assure meeting the national minimum requirements of quality and be registered with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

(c) The Director, or his designee, in cooperation with the participating appointing authorities within each agency, shall develop and annually revise by the thirty-first day of December a list of employment classifications appropriate for apprenticeship training, which may include, but not be limited to, the following classifications: Computer service technicians; legal assistants; computer systems analysts; computer programmers; computer operators; office machine repairers; physical therapy assistants; civil engineering technicians; peripheral data processing equipment operators; medical clerks; electrical and electronic technicians; and mechanical engineering technicians.

(d) The chief administrative officer of each agency in cooperation with the Director, or his designee, shall establish procedures for the coordination of apprenticeship programs developed in accordance with this Act.

(e) Subject to the approval of the Director, and the procedures established under this Act, each participating agency shall determine the location and positions in which apprenticeships are to be established.

(f) The Director, or his designee, shall make an annual report on the development of apprenticeship programs to the State Board of Vocational Education, the Governor, and the General Assembly on or before January 1 of each year for the fiscal year ending the previous June 30, and shall include in such report the following:

- (1) A review of the development and operation of apprenticeship programs;
- (2) The current list of apprenticeable classifications;
- (3) A summary of the agencies and types of positions involved;
- (4) A summary of registered apprenticeships;
- (5) The number of persons who applied for apprenticeship positions;
- (6) The number of persons accepted into the apprenticeship programs;
- (7) The number of persons who successfully completed and received a certificate of completion from the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training;
- (8) The number of persons who failed to complete apprenticeships;
- (9) The number of persons who remain employed after successfully completing apprenticeships; and

(10) A summary of characteristics of applicants and participants in the program deemed pertinent to the Director.

(g) The recruitment, selection, and training of apprentices during their apprenticeship shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex. The State shall take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship programs and shall operate the programs to assure equal employment in apprenticeship.

SECTION 3. Advisory board for the apprenticeship program. (a) In order to better accomplish the goals of this program, an apprenticeship advisory board is established. Its members shall include the Director of the Arkansas Department of Labor or a designee; the Director of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration or a designee; the Administrator of the Employment Security Division of the Arkansas Department of Labor or a designee; the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, Department of Finance and Administration, or a designee; two representatives of labor who are employees of the State who work in covered apprenticeable occupations; and one private citizen. The employee and citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor. The employee and the private citizen members shall serve without compensation for two years, after which they may be reappointed.

(b) The Director of the Department of Labor shall call the first meeting of the advisory board within three months after the effective date of this Act. At this meeting a chairman and a vice chairman shall be elected by the board as a whole.

(c) The advisory board shall meet at least semiannually, at the call of the chairman, for the purpose of receiving, reviewing and evaluating reports from the Director on the achievements and deficiencies of the program. The board may seek advice and counsel from appropriate members of the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, who may be knowledgeable about such apprenticeship programs. The board may also prepare written recommendations to the State Board of Vocational Education, the Governor, and the General Assembly on ways to improve the State agency sponsored apprenticeship program.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

APPROVED: April 7, 1987

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