

HB 4118 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee on Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: The measure tells BOLI to study youth programs for on the job learning at the federal level. It orders BOLI to report back its findings in late 2024.

Detailed Summary: Requires Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to study youth apprenticeship programs in the United States. BOLI must provide initial report to Legislative Assembly by June 30, 2024 and final report by November 15, 2024. Specifies requirements of study including: (1) connection between youth apprenticeship designed for high school students and adult apprenticeship programs; (2) methods used to measure term of apprenticeship; (3) representation of youth apprentice on local joint apprenticeship training committee; and (4) feasibility of establishing a state-administered online portal for students and employers to obtain information about youth apprenticeship programs. BOLI must utilize findings to identify best practices for registered youth apprenticeship program and assess feasibility of establishing statewide framework for youth apprenticeship. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Detailed Summary:

BACKGROUND: The policy of the State of Oregon regarding apprenticeships is stated in ORS 660.002 and it includes ensuring the proper training of an adequate, skilled labor force to ensure the continued growth and development of the economy. Apprentices learn while earning on the job under the standards approved by the Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council (Council) and under an apprenticeship agreement that is recognized by the Council. There are approximately 60 approved apprenticeship programs available in Oregon, ranging from traditional skilled trades such as plumbers and electricians and newer occupations such as medical assistants and software developers. According to the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), there are currently more than 10,000 registered apprentices.

Youth may participate in a range of work-based education opportunities, including career and technical education (CTE) classes, internships, and apprenticeships. Interest in youth apprenticeship has grown in recent years as a strategy for building skills that are valuable in the labor market and to serve as a structured bridge or pathway between high school and work. Youth apprenticeships provide the specialized qualifications and knowledge that many employers are seeking from a potential employee but without incurring the expense of obtaining a four-year college degree.

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Currently, there is no federal definition of youth apprenticeship. However, the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship outlines four key characteristics to youth apprenticeships:

- paid, on-the-job learning under the supervision of skilled employee mentors;
- ongoing assessment against established skills and competency standards;
- related classroom-based instruction; and
- a portable, industry-recognized credential and post-secondary credit upon completion.

There is one registered youth apprenticeship approved in Oregon, the Hillsboro Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship, an industry-recognized, registered youth apprenticeship program for 16-18 year old who are registered to attend a Hillsboro School District High School.

PRELIMINARY