



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Labor & Commerce Committee

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House Bill 132 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to technical education and apprenticeships; relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools; relating to child labor; and providing for an effective date."

The "Alaska Apprenticeship Expansion Act" expands upon Alaska's time-tested apprenticeship programs:

- Establishes tax credits for employers participating in Registered Apprenticeship.
- Strengthens collaboration between the Departments of Labor and Education to support apprenticeship and other career and technical education programs.
- Encourages provision of dual credit so high school students in CTE programs and apprentices have more opportunities to earn college credit while pursuing their careers.

Registered Apprenticeship has trained generations of Alaskans in the construction industry, providing nationally recognized postsecondary credentials along with living-wage careers. Alaska employers have expanded apprenticeship in new industries such as health care, and in partnership with universities are linking apprenticeships with college credit. However, there are not enough apprenticeship opportunities to meet demand from graduating high school seniors. Nor is there enough alignment between college degree programs and apprenticeship programs. Graduating seniors should not have to choose between a career and a college degree: They should have an opportunity to pursue both.

High school students also should have opportunities to pursue and receive credit for career and technical education courses that prepare them for living wage careers in growth industries ranging from mining to health care.

By strengthening apprenticeship, school to apprenticeship, and other career and technical education programs, HB 132 will ensure employers have access to highly skilled workers and ensure graduating seniors can earn a living wage while working toward a college degree.