

## CHAPTER 84D

### REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP ACT

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#### 84D.1 Short title.

[This chapter](#) shall be known and may be cited as the “*Iowa Registered Apprenticeship Act*”.  
2023 Acts, ch 72, §1

#### 84D.2 Definitions.

For purposes of [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Apprentice*” means a worker who is at least sixteen years of age, is employed to learn an apprenticeship occupation as defined in [29 C.F.R. §29.4](#), and meets the requirements of the standards of apprenticeship set out in [29 C.F.R. §29.5](#).
2. “*Apprenticeship occupation*” means an occupation that is specified by industry and to which all of the following apply:
  - a. The occupation involves skills that are customarily learned in a practical way through a structured, systematic program of on-the-job supervised learning.
  - b. The occupation is clearly identified and commonly recognized throughout an industry.
  - c. The occupation involves the progressive attainment of manual, mechanical, or technical skills and knowledge which, in accordance with the industry standard for the occupation, would require the completion of at least two thousand hours of on-the-job learning to attain.
  - d. The occupation requires related instruction to supplement the on-the-job learning.
3. “*Apprenticeship agreement*” means the acceptance and recording of a written agreement by the Iowa office of apprenticeship between an apprentice and an apprenticeship sponsor that contains the terms and conditions of the apprentice’s employment and training consistent with [29 C.F.R. pt. 29](#) and [this chapter](#).
4. “*Apprenticeship program*” means a program registered with the United States department of labor, office of apprenticeship, or the Iowa office of apprenticeship that includes terms and conditions for the qualification, recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices, including the requirement for a written apprenticeship agreement.
5. “*Apprenticeship sponsor*” means an entity operating an apprenticeship program or an entity in whose name an apprenticeship program is being operated, which entity is registered with or approved by the United States department of labor, office of apprenticeship, or the Iowa office of apprenticeship. “*Apprenticeship sponsor*” includes a lead apprenticeship sponsor, sponsor, or intermediary, and an employer who provides training through a lead apprenticeship sponsor, sponsor, or intermediary.
6. “*Cancellation*” means the termination of the registration of a quality pre-apprenticeship program or apprenticeship program at the request of the apprenticeship sponsor or the termination of the apprenticeship agreement at the request of apprentice.
7. “*Certification*” or “*certificate*” means the written approval by the Iowa office of apprenticeship of a set of apprenticeship standards, of an individual for employment as an apprentice or probationary apprentice in a registered apprenticeship program, or of an individual who has successfully met the requirements to receive an interim credential.
8. “*Director*” means the director of the department of workforce development, or the director’s designee.
9. “*Employee organization*” means any association in which employees participate and which exists for the purpose of dealing with employers.
10. “*Employer*” means a person or organization employing an apprentice, whether or not such person or organization is a party to an apprenticeship agreement with the apprentice.
11. “*Employer organization*” means a collective organization of manufacturers, retailers,

or other employers of wage labor, which seeks to coordinate the behavior of its member companies in matters of mutual interest.

12. “*Intermediary*” includes an entity that provides required technical instruction to an apprentice, aggregates employer demand, provides technical assistance to employers, assists with organizing training, develops occupational standards, and assists with the registration of programs with the Iowa office of apprenticeship.

13. “*Lead apprenticeship sponsor*” means a trade organization, labor organization, employer association, or other incorporated entity representing a group of apprenticeship sponsors.

14. “*Licensing authority*” means an agency, board, commission, or other office with the authority to require occupational fees or issue licensing requirements for practice of an apprenticeable occupation.

15. “*Mentor*” or “*journeyworker*” means an individual who has attained a level of skills, abilities, competencies, and knowledge of a trade or craft, either through formal apprenticeship or through practical on-the-job experiences and training, to be recognized by an individual’s employer as being qualified to perform the work of the trade or craft. “*Mentor*” or “*journeyworker*” may include a technician, specialist, or other skilled worker. For an apprenticeship program in an occupation subject to licensure under state law, a mentor or journeyworker must possess a valid license to perform the occupation.

16. “*On-the-job training*” means training provided by an employer to which all of the following apply:

a. The training is provided to a paid apprentice who is engaged in productive work in an occupation, and the work provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the occupation.

b. The training is limited in duration as appropriate to the occupation for which the apprentice is being trained, based on the content of the training, the apprentice’s prior work experience, and the apprentice’s service strategy, as appropriate.

17. “*Public member*” means a member of the Iowa apprenticeship council not representing an employer organization or employee organization that is familiar with apprenticeable occupations.

18. “*Quality pre-apprenticeship program*” means a program or set of strategies, registered by and for purposes of the Iowa office of apprenticeship, including basic skills training, academic skills remediation, or introduction to the industry, designed to prepare individuals for entry into a registered apprenticeship program.

19. a. “*Registered apprenticeship program*” means a program to which all of the following apply:

(1) The program has been accepted and recorded by the Iowa office of apprenticeship.

(2) The program includes all of the following:

(a) Employer involvement.

(b) On-the-job training.

(c) Related training instruction from a lead apprenticeship sponsor, sponsor, or intermediary.

(d) Paid work experience.

(e) Receipt of a portable state or nationally recognized credential.

(3) The program is for the recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices and is developed pursuant to 29 C.F.R. pts. 29 and 30 and the rules of the Iowa office of apprenticeship.

b. “*Registered apprenticeship program*” may include a youth apprenticeship that otherwise qualifies as a registered apprenticeship program.

20. “*Registration agency*” means the Iowa office of apprenticeship which is responsible for registering, providing technical assistance, and conducting reviews for compliance with federal law.

21. “*Related training instruction*” means an organized and systematic form of instruction, other than on-the-job training, to which all of the following apply:

a. The instruction is designed to provide an apprentice with knowledge of the subjects related to the apprentice’s occupation.

b. The instruction is given in a classroom, through occupational or industrial courses, through correspondence or online courses, or through other forms of self-study.

22. “*State advisory council*” means the Iowa apprenticeship council established pursuant to [29 C.F.R. §29.13\(a\)\(2\)](#) and [section 84D.5](#).

23. “*Supervision*” includes direction and oversight of apprentices on the job by any supervisor, foreman, journeyworker, or highly skilled mentor who may be counted as a direct supervisor of an apprentice as long as the person is of the same trade or occupation as the apprentice. “*Supervision*” may occur in person, by phone, or through virtual means; however, supervision for apprenticeship programs must occur in person where otherwise required by the Code.

24. “*Work-based learning*” means opportunities and experiences that include but are not limited to sustained project-based learning in partnership with an employer, simulated work experiences aligned with industry-recognized credentials, high-quality pre-apprenticeships aligned to an apprenticeship, student learner programs, internships, and apprenticeships.

25. “*Youth apprenticeship*”, for purposes of the Iowa office of apprenticeship, means a program that is designed specifically for an apprentice eighteen years of age or under.

[2023 Acts, ch 72, §2](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1162, §16, 18](#)

### **84D.3 Iowa office of apprenticeship.**

1. The Iowa office of apprenticeship is established within the department of workforce development in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §50 and [29 C.F.R. pts. 29 and 30](#). The office is operated and managed by the director or the director’s designee.

2. The office is established for all of the following purposes:

a. To serve as the state registration agency.

b. To establish labor standards for quality pre-apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, and apprenticeships.

c. To establish rules regarding the registration of quality pre-apprenticeship programs, registered youth apprenticeship programs, registered apprenticeship programs, and apprenticeship programs in the state when the sponsor of such programs chooses to certify or register the programs with the office.

d. To resolve disputes between parties to an apprenticeship agreement.

[2023 Acts, ch 72, §3](#)

### **84D.4 Duties of office.**

1. The Iowa office of apprenticeship shall adopt rules and develop standards to create a nationally recognized state apprenticeship completion credential in compliance with, but not exceeding, standards established in [29 C.F.R. §29.5](#) for completing a registered apprenticeship program.

2. a. The office shall approve or deny an application for a registered apprenticeship program, whether for a new program or expansion of an existing program, within sixty days of a signed application being submitted to the office. The office shall provide an entity whose application is not approved with specific reasons for the disapproval and an option for modifying the application.

b. The office shall approve or deny an application for a new apprenticeship sponsor who is providing related technical instruction within thirty days. The applying sponsor’s apprentices may enroll in an apprenticeship program while approval is pending; however, training shall not begin until the plan is approved.

3. The office shall establish competency-based apprenticeship frameworks based on the regional and statewide collection of valuable credentials.

4. The office shall establish a plan to provide reciprocal approval, for federal purposes, to apprentices, apprenticeship programs, and standards that are registered in other states by the United States department of labor, office of apprenticeship, or a registration agency, if such reciprocity is requested by the apprenticeship program sponsor. Program sponsors seeking reciprocal approval shall meet wage and hour provisions and apprentice ratio standards of this state.

5. The director may adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to administer the duties of the office in compliance with [29 C.F.R. pts. 29 and 30](#).

6. The office may consider advice provided by the Iowa apprenticeship council and state workforce development board when completing the office's duties as set forth in [this section](#).

7. The office shall serve as the registration agency for quality pre-apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, and apprenticeships.

8. The office shall develop a plan providing a procedure for the cancellation or deregistration, or both, of programs and for temporary suspension, cancellation, deregistration, or any of these, of apprenticeship agreements.

9. The office shall not require affiliation with a labor organization, employer organization, or other limited-membership organization as a criteria of an apprenticeship program. [This subsection](#) does not prohibit labor organizations, employer organizations, and limited-membership organizations from requiring membership to participate in the apprenticeship training provided by the organization.

[2023 Acts, ch 72, §4](#)

#### **84D.5 Iowa apprenticeship council.**

1. The Iowa apprenticeship council is established as an advisory council within the department of workforce development.

2. Members of the council shall be appointed by the governor for terms of three years and in compliance with [section 4A.12](#).

3. *a.* The council shall include at least five but not more than nine voting members appointed by the governor. The members shall have demonstrated experience and expertise in apprenticeable occupations.

*b.* The council shall have an equal number of representatives of employer organizations and employee organizations. The total number of public members shall not exceed the total number of members who serve as a representative of an employee organization or an employer organization.

*c.* The governor shall appoint a chair of the Iowa apprenticeship council from among the voting members.

*d.* The director, or the director's designee, shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

4. The council shall develop bylaws related to the support and expansion of the use of apprenticeship in the state.

5. Meetings of the council shall be governed by the provisions of [chapter 21](#).

6. The council shall do all of the following:

*a.* Advise the Iowa office of apprenticeship regarding the duties set forth in [this chapter](#).

*b.* Provide community outreach and education regarding the benefits of apprenticeship.

[2023 Acts, ch 72, §5; 2024 Acts, ch 1004, §16](#)

Referred to in [§84D.2](#)

#### **84D.6 Requirements for licensing authorities.**

1. A licensing authority shall grant an occupational license to any applicant who meets all of the following requirements:

*a.* The applicant has successfully completed an apprenticeship in compliance with program standards for apprenticeships as outlined in [29 C.F.R. §29.5](#), subject to a valid apprenticeship agreement, and under the supervision of an eligible employer.

*b.* The applicant has received a passing score on any examination deemed to be necessary for licensing by a licensing authority.

*c.* The applicant is otherwise eligible to receive a license.

2. A licensing authority shall not set a higher required minimum passing score on any examination for an applicant who satisfies the requirements of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", than that which is required for any other test taker.

3. If a licensing authority does not otherwise require an examination, the licensing authority shall not require an examination for an applicant who satisfies the requirements of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a".

4. A licensing authority shall adopt any rules necessary for the implementation and administration of [this section](#).

[2023 Acts, ch 72, §6](#)

#### **84D.7 Requirements for sponsors and employers.**

A sponsor of a quality pre-apprenticeship program, youth apprenticeship program, registered apprenticeship program, or apprenticeship program is responsible for the administration and supervision of on-the-job training and related technical instruction for each apprentice in the quality pre-apprenticeship program, youth apprenticeship program, registered apprenticeship program, or apprenticeship program. When training is provided by a lead apprenticeship sponsor or intermediary, the employer of the apprentice is responsible for the administration and supervision of on-the-job training, and the lead apprenticeship sponsor or intermediary is responsible for related technical instruction for each apprenticeship.

[2023 Acts, ch 72, §7](#)

#### **84D.8 Scope of chapter — limitations.**

1. The provisions of [this chapter](#) shall be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all political subdivisions therein.

2. Unless expressly required by state law, the use of apprenticeship training shall be voluntary and shall not be mandated by any state agency or political subdivision.

3. A political subdivision shall not impose additional restrictions, qualifications, or requirements on developers, contractors, subcontractors, or apprentices relating to apprenticeship training beyond those expressly authorized in [this chapter](#) or other provisions of state law. A political subdivision shall not make receipt of any incentives, or the eligibility for such incentives, contingent upon compliance with any such restrictions, qualifications, or requirements.

[2025 Acts, ch 6, §19, 23](#)

NEW section