

Senate File 79 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 79

BY ZAUN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to apprenticeship training delivered via
2 interactive distance learning, and including applicability
3 provisions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 15B.2, Code 2020, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 5A. "*Contact hours*" means the time an
4 apprenticeship instructor spends instructing an apprentice in
5 person or via interactive distant learning. In the case of a
6 lead apprenticeship sponsor with programs totaling one hundred
7 or more total instructional hours, "*contact hours*" also include
8 the time spent in online training if the total amount of online
9 training does not account for more than thirty percent of the
10 total instructional hours.

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. "*Interactive distance learning*" means
12 educational instruction and content delivered to a participant
13 via the internet in a live instructor-facilitated environment
14 that is accessible to a participant who is separated by
15 physical distance, and which supports regular and substantive
16 synchronous interactions between all participants and the
17 instructor.

18 NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. "*Online training*" means educational
19 instruction and content delivered to a participant via the
20 internet in an environment that is not facilitated by a live
21 instructor, and that does not allow for regular and substantive
22 synchronous interactions between all participants and the
23 instructor. Online training includes educational instruction
24 that allows a participant to participate in learning outside
25 of a classroom, or at the participant's convenience, or
26 independent of an instructor.

27 NEW SUBSECTION. 8B. "*Training year*" means the calendar
28 year immediately preceding the calendar year in which an
29 apprenticeship sponsor or lead apprenticeship sponsor applies
30 for a grant.

31 Sec. 2. Section 15B.4, subsection 2, paragraph b,
32 subparagraph (2), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

33 (2) The total number of contact hours that apprenticeship
34 instructors for all applying apprenticeship sponsors or lead
35 apprenticeship sponsors spent ~~in contact~~ with apprentices

1 during the most recent training year. ~~For purposes of~~
2 ~~this subparagraph, "contact hours" includes the time spent~~
3 ~~instructing apprentices in person or, in the case of a lead~~
4 ~~apprenticeship sponsor with programs totaling one hundred or~~
5 ~~more total instructional hours, "contact hours" includes the~~
6 ~~time spent in online training if the total amount of online~~
7 ~~instruction does not account for more than thirty percent of~~
8 ~~the total instructional hours.~~

9 Sec. 3. Section 15B.4, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code 2019,
10 is amended to read as follows:

11 b. The address and a description of the physical location
12 where in-person training is conducted or interactive distance
13 learning is received.

14 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to training grants
15 awarded to apprenticeship sponsors and lead apprenticeship
16 sponsors for any training year beginning on or after January
17 1, 2019.

18 EXPLANATION

19 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
20 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

21 This bill relates to apprenticeship training delivered via
22 interactive distance learning.

23 The bill defines "interactive distance learning" as
24 educational instruction and content delivered to participants
25 via the internet in a live instructor-facilitated environment,
26 that is accessible to participants who are separated by
27 physical distance, and which supports regular and substantive
28 synchronous interactions between all participants and the
29 instructor. It is distinguished from "online training" which
30 is defined in the bill as educational instruction and content
31 delivered to participants via the internet in an environment
32 that is not facilitated by a live instructor, and that does
33 not allow for regular and substantive synchronous interactions
34 between all participants. Online training includes educational
35 instruction that allows a participant to participate in

1 learning outside of a classroom, or at the participant's
2 convenience, or independent of an instructor.

3 The bill allows interactive distance learning to be counted
4 toward contact hours for purposes of calculating a training
5 grant award pursuant to Code chapter 15B. "Contact hours" are
6 defined in the bill as the time an apprenticeship instructor
7 spends instructing an apprentice in person, or via interactive
8 distant learning. In the case of a lead apprenticeship sponsor
9 with programs totaling 100 or more total instructional hours,
10 "contact hours" also include time spent in online training if
11 the total amount of online training is not more than 30 percent
12 of the total instructional hours.

13 Current law does not make a distinction between interactive
14 distance learning and online training, nor does it define
15 either term.

16 The bill applies to training grants awarded to
17 apprenticeship sponsors and lead apprenticeship sponsors
18 for any training year beginning on or after January 1,
19 2019. "Training year" is defined in the bill as the calendar
20 year immediately preceding the calendar year in which an
21 apprenticeship sponsor or lead apprenticeship sponsor applies
22 for a grant.