

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2025

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 75**

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**Introduced by Senator Smallwood-Cuevas**

January 15, 2025

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*An act to add and repeal Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 14050) of Chapter 3 of Division 7 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to employment.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 75, as amended, Smallwood-Cuevas. Employment: ~~Postrelease apprenticeships~~. *Reentry Pilot Project.*

*Existing law provides for various employment programs to assist formerly incarcerated individuals in finding and retaining employment, including the Pre-Release Construction Trades Certificate Program administered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Prison to Employment Program administered by the California Workforce Development Board.*

*Existing law establishes the California Workforce Development Board as the body responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce investment system and the alignment of the education and workforce investment systems to the needs of the 21st century economy and workforce.*

*This bill would, subject to an appropriation and until January 1, 2030, require the board to establish a Reentry Pilot Project in the Counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, and San Diego to provide workforce training and transitional support to formerly incarcerated individuals committed to careers in the skilled trades. The bill would require the board to designate a qualified nonprofit organization in each pilot*

county for specified duties, including the management and monitoring of funds. The bill would require a qualified nonprofit organization to provide certain stipends to eligible participants, including a transportation stipend to ensure accessibility to training and employment sites. The bill would require apprenticeship training that is affiliated with a union to be defrayed by underwriting 25% of the total cost per participant. The bill would require the board to evaluate the program based on specified outcomes and submit a report to the Legislature, no later than 6 months following the conclusion of the pilot project, assessing the pilot project's effectiveness and feasibility for statewide expansion.

~~Existing law establishes the Pre-Release Construction Trades Certificate Program within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to increase employment opportunities in the construction trades for incarcerated persons upon release. Existing law requires the department to establish a joint advisory committee, composed of representatives from specified organizations and state agencies, for the purpose of implementation of the program and specifies the duties of the committee with respect to the program.~~

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to postrelease apprenticeship programs.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 2     *following:*
- 3     *(a) The successful reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals*
- 4     *is critical to reducing recidivism and fostering economic*
- 5     *self-sufficiency.*
- 6     *(b) The Counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, and San Diego*
- 7     *receive a large percentage of formerly incarcerated individuals*
- 8     *released from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation*
- 9     *and have highly developed public agencies and nonprofits focused*
- 10    *on reentry services.*
- 11    *(c) A structured, statewide model for reentry workforce training*
- 12    *is necessary to optimize resources and create a replicable system*
- 13    *for future expansion.*

1     (d) *The California Workforce Development Board has*  
2     *demonstrated success in administering workforce training*  
3     *programs and is well positioned to oversee a Reentry Pilot Project*  
4     *focused on training formerly incarcerated individuals for careers*  
5     *in the skilled trades.*

6     SEC. 2. *Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 14050) is added*  
7     *to Chapter 3 of Division 7 of the Unemployment Insurance Code,*  
8     *to read:*

9  
10                     *Article 4.5. Reentry Pilot Project*  
11

12     14050. (a) *For purposes of this section, “board” means the*  
13     *California Workforce Development Board.*

14     (b) *The board shall establish a Reentry Pilot Project in the*  
15     *Counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, and San Diego to provide*  
16     *workforce training and transitional support to formerly*  
17     *incarcerated individuals committed to careers in the skilled trades.*

18     (c) *Under the pilot project, the board shall designate a qualified*  
19     *nonprofit organization in each pilot county to manage and monitor*  
20     *funds and be accountable to the board for proper expenditure and*  
21     *reporting.*

22     (d) *A qualified nonprofit organization shall provide the following*  
23     *stipends to eligible participants:*

24         (1) *A transportation stipend to ensure accessibility to training*  
25         *and employment sites.*

26         (2) *An equipment stipend to cover necessary tools and protective*  
27         *gear.*

28         (3) *A living cost and technology stipend to support housing*  
29         *stability and access to digital resources.*

30     (e) *Under the pilot project, apprenticeship training that is*  
31     *affiliated with a union shall be defrayed by underwriting 25 percent*  
32     *of the total cost per participant.*

33     (f) *The board shall evaluate the program based on the following*  
34     *outcomes:*

35         (1) *Participant employment rates and retention in skilled trade*  
36         *careers.*

37         (2) *Reduction in recidivism rates among program participants.*

38         (3) *Long-term fiscal impact, including cost savings from reduced*  
39         *incarceration rates compared to program expenditures.*

1 (g) (1) No later than six months following the conclusion of the  
2 pilot project, the board shall submit a comprehensive report to  
3 the Legislature assessing the pilot project's effectiveness based  
4 on outcomes evaluated under subdivision (f) and feasibility for  
5 statewide expansion.

6 (2) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be  
7 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government  
8 Code.

9 (h) (1) This article shall become operative only upon an  
10 appropriation of funds by the Legislature for the purposes of this  
11 article.

12 (2) This article shall remain in effect until January 1, 2030, and  
13 as of that date is repealed.

14 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~  
15 ~~legislation relating to postrelease apprenticeship programs.~~