

ABC Urges Lawmakers to Level Playing Field and Improve Workforce Development

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HARRISBURG—The House Labor & Industry Committee approved House Bill 1952 yesterday, which would allow for a 1:1 ratio for all of Pennsylvania's apprenticeship programs.

House Bill 1952 levels the playing field for career and technical education to train. The Apprenticeship and Training Act of 1961 currently allows for joint apprenticeship programs, which provide on-the-job training for signatory employees in construction, manufacturing and a host of other industries to utilize a supervisory ratio of one experienced journeyman for every one apprentice. HB 1952 would provide for the same allowance to non-union or merit shop programs.

Current regulations require that non-union educators and employers quadruple the resources they have to training new employees, stipulating that they must have four experienced journeyman for every one apprentice. Current law is posing a fatal threat for workforce development and hindering the much-needed growth for skilled trades.

For the very first time in Pennsylvania, HB 1952 would establish a consistent system for Pennsylvania's apprenticeship programs. It is crucial that we address Pennsylvania's aging workforce and ensure that there is a next generation of qualified industry leaders.

We encourage citizens to contact their State Legislator today and urge them to support HB 1952 which would improve the state's apprenticeship programs. From construction to health care, apprenticeship is the key component in addressing skilled workforce shortages.

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