

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 597

Short Title: ApprenticeshipNC. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Barefoot, Tillman, Hise (Primary Sponsors); Daniel, Krawiec, Rabin, and Sanderson.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 5, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE APPRENTICESHIP  
3 PROGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO THE COMMUNITY  
4 COLLEGES SYSTEM OFFICE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** All functions, powers, duties, obligations, resources, and  
7 appropriations vested in the Apprenticeship Program and the Apprenticeship Council are  
8 transferred to, vested in, and consolidated into the North Carolina Community Colleges System  
9 Office as a Type I transfer, as defined in G.S. 143A-6. The State Board of Community  
10 Colleges, the Community Colleges System Office, and the Office of State Budget and  
11 Management are authorized to take all other steps necessary to consolidate the Apprenticeship  
12 Program and the Apprenticeship Council into the Community Colleges System Office. Joint  
13 delivery of Apprenticeship and Community College workforce training programs shall ensure  
14 coordination of program delivery and appropriate classroom training supporting the needs of  
15 students and employers.

16 **SECTION 2.** Article 1 of Chapter 115D is amended by adding a new section to  
17 read:

18 "**§ 115D-5.3. ApprenticeshipNC Program; Apprenticeship Council; transfer.**

19 The ApprenticeshipNC Program and the Apprenticeship Council, as contained in Chapter  
20 94 of the General Statutes and the laws of this State, are hereby transferred by a Type I transfer  
21 to the North Carolina Community Colleges System Office."

22 **SECTION 3.** Chapter 94 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

23 "Chapter 94.

24 "~~Apprenticeship~~**ApprenticeshipNC.**

25 "**§ 94-1. Purpose.**

26 The purposes of this Chapter are: to open to young people the opportunity to obtain training  
27 that will equip them for profitable employment and citizenship; to set up, as a means to this  
28 end, a program of voluntary apprenticeship under approved apprentice agreements providing  
29 facilities for their training and guidance in the arts and crafts of industry and trade, with parallel  
30 instruction in related and supplementary education; to promote employment opportunities for  
31 young people under conditions providing adequate training and reasonable earnings; to relate  
32 the supply of skilled workers to employment demands; to establish standards for apprentice  
33 training; to coordinate workforce education and customized training tools to fill talent pipeline  
34 gaps, as appropriate, with local business and industry; to establish an Apprenticeship Council  
35 and apprenticeship committees and sponsors to assist in effectuating the purposes of this



Chapter; to leverage the collaborative and regional structure of the community college service areas with the Collaboration for Prosperity Zones set out in G.S. 143B-28.1; to provide for a Director of ~~Apprenticeship~~ ApprenticeshipNC within the ~~Department of Commerce~~; Community Colleges System Office; to provide for reports to the legislature and to the public regarding the status of apprentice training in the State; to establish a procedure for the determination of apprentice agreement controversies; and to accomplish related ends.

**"§ 94-2. Apprenticeship Council.**

The ~~Secretary of Commerce~~ State Board of Community Colleges shall appoint an Apprenticeship Council composed of four representatives each from employer and employee organizations respectively and three representatives from the public at large. One State official designated by the Department of Public Instruction and one State official designated by the Department of ~~Community Colleges~~ Commerce shall be a member ex officio of said council, without vote. The terms of office of the members of the Apprenticeship Council first appointed by the ~~Secretary of Commerce~~ State Board of Community Colleges shall expire as designated by the ~~Secretary~~ State Board at the time of making the appointment: ~~two~~ three representatives each of employers and employees, ~~being appointed for one year and one representative~~ two representatives of the public at large ~~being appointed for two years; and one representative each of employers, employees, and the public at large being appointed for a term of three years.~~ large. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term of his or her predecessor shall be appointed for the remainder of said term. Each member of the Council not otherwise compensated by public moneys, shall be reimbursed for transportation and shall receive such per diem compensation as is provided generally for boards and commissions under the biennial maintenance appropriation acts for each day spent in attendance at meetings of the Apprenticeship Council. The ~~Secretary of Commerce~~ State Board of Community Colleges shall annually appoint one member of the Council to act as its chairman.

The Apprenticeship Council shall meet at the call of the ~~Secretary of Commerce~~ State Board of Community Colleges and shall aid ~~him~~ the State Board and the Community Colleges System Office in formulating policies for the effective administration of this Chapter. Subject to the approval of the ~~Secretary~~ State Board of Community Colleges, the Apprenticeship Council shall establish standards for apprentice agreement which in no case shall be lower than those prescribed by this Chapter, shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of said Chapter, and shall perform such other functions as the ~~Secretary~~ State Board of Community Colleges may direct. Not less than once a year the Apprenticeship Council shall make a report through the ~~Secretary~~ Community Colleges System Office of its activities and findings to the legislature and to the public.

**"§ 94-3. Director of ~~Apprenticeship~~ ApprenticeshipNC.**

The ~~Secretary of Commerce~~ State Board of Community Colleges is hereby directed to appoint a Director of ~~Apprenticeship~~ ApprenticeshipNC which appointment shall be subject to the confirmation of the State Apprenticeship Council by a majority vote. ~~The Secretary of Commerce~~ The Director shall report to the Vice President of Economic Development and the Vice President of Academic Programs and Student Services within the Community Colleges System Office. Upon the recommendation of the Director, the State Board of Community Colleges is further authorized to appoint and employ such clerical, technical, and professional help as shall be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Chapter. The Director shall supervise clerical, technical, and professional staff appointed to administer the ApprenticeshipNC program.

**"§ 94-4. Powers and duties of Director of ~~Apprenticeship~~ ApprenticeshipNC.**

The Director, under the supervision of the ~~Secretary of Commerce~~ Vice President of Economic Development and with the advice and guidance of the Apprenticeship Council is authorized to administer the provisions of this Chapter; in cooperation with the Apprenticeship

1 Council and apprenticeship committees and sponsors, to set up conditions and training  
2 standards for apprentice agreements, which conditions or standards shall in no case be lower  
3 than those prescribed by this Chapter; to act as secretary of the Apprenticeship Council; to  
4 approve for the Council if in his or her opinion approval is for the best interest of the  
5 apprenticeship any apprentice agreement which meets the standards established under this  
6 Chapter; to terminate or cancel any apprentice agreement in accordance with the provisions of  
7 such agreement; to keep a record of apprentice agreements and their disposition; to issue  
8 certificates of completion of apprenticeship; and to perform such other duties as are necessary  
9 to carry out the intent of this Chapter, including other on-job training necessary for emergency  
10 and critical civilian production: Provided, that the administration and supervision of related and  
11 supplemental instruction for apprentices, coordination of instruction with job experiences, and  
12 the selection and training of teachers and coordinators for such instruction shall be the  
13 responsibility of State and local boards responsible for vocational education.

14 **"§ 94-5. Apprenticeship committees and program sponsors.**

15 (a) As used in this Chapter:

- 16 (1) "Apprenticeship program" means a plan containing all terms and conditions  
17 for the qualification, recruitment, selection, employment, and training of  
18 apprentices, including such matters as the requirement for a written  
19 apprenticeship agreement.
- 20 (2) "Apprenticeship agreement" means a written agreement between an  
21 apprentice and either his or her employer or an apprenticeship committee or  
22 sponsor acting as agent for employer(s), which agreement satisfies the  
23 requirements of G.S. 94-7.
- 24 (2a) "ApprenticeshipNC" means the statewide apprenticeship program  
25 administered by the Community Colleges System Office under this Chapter.
- 26 (3) "Sponsor" means any person, firm, corporation, organization, association or  
27 committee operating an apprenticeship program and in whose name the  
28 apprenticeship program is approved.
- 29 (4) "Employer" means any person, firm, corporation or organization employing  
30 an apprentice whether or not such person, firm, corporation or organization  
31 is a party to an apprenticeship agreement with the apprentice.
- 32 (5) "Apprenticeship committee" means those persons designated by the sponsor,  
33 and approved by the Apprenticeship Council, to act for it in the  
34 administration of the apprenticeship program. A committee may be "joint,"  
35 i.e., it is composed of an equal number of representatives of the employer(s)  
36 and of the employees represented by a bona fide collective bargaining  
37 agent(s) and has been established to conduct, operate or administer an  
38 apprenticeship program and enter into apprenticeship agreements with  
39 apprentices. A committee may be "unilateral" or "nonjoint" which shall  
40 mean a program sponsor in which employees or a bona fide collective  
41 bargaining agent is not a party.

42 (b) An apprenticeship committee may be appointed by the Apprenticeship Council in  
43 any trade or group of trades in a city or trade area, whenever the apprentice training needs of  
44 such trade or group of trades justifies such establishment.

45 (c) The function of the apprenticeship committee, or sponsor when there is no  
46 apprenticeship committee, shall be: to cooperate with school authorities in regard to the  
47 education of apprentices; in accordance with the standards set up by the apprenticeship  
48 committee for the same trade or group of trades, where such committee has been appointed, to  
49 work in an advisory capacity with employers and employees in matters regarding schedule of  
50 operations, application of wage rates, and working conditions for apprentices and to specify the  
51 number of apprentices which shall be employed locally in the trade under the apprenticeship

1 agreements under this Chapter; and to adjust apprenticeship disputes, subject to the approval of  
2 the director; to ascertain the prevailing rate for journeymen in the city or trade area and specify  
3 the graduated scale of wages applicable to apprentices in such trade in such area; to ascertain  
4 employment needs in such trade or group of trades and specify the appropriate current ratio of  
5 apprentices to journeymen; and to make recommendations for the general good of apprentices  
6 engaged in the trade or trades represented by the committee. An apprenticeship committee may  
7 appoint a representative and delegate to such representative the authority for implementation  
8 and performance of any standards adopted by the committee pursuant to any of the  
9 aforementioned functions.

10 **"§ 94-6. Definition of an apprentice.**

11 The term "apprentice," as used herein, shall mean a person at least 16 years of age who is  
12 covered by a written apprenticeship agreement approved by the Apprenticeship Council, which  
13 apprenticeship agreement provides for not less than 2,000 hours of reasonably continuous  
14 employment for such person for his participation in an approved schedule of work experience  
15 and for organized, related supplemental instruction in technical subjects related to the trade. A  
16 minimum of 144 hours of related supplemental instruction for each year of apprenticeship is  
17 recommended. The required hours for apprenticeship agreements and the recommended hours  
18 for related supplemental instruction may be decreased or increased in accordance with  
19 standards adopted by the apprenticeship committee or sponsor, subject to approval of the  
20 ~~Secretary of Commerce.~~ State Board of Community Colleges.

21 ...

22 **"§ 94-9. Rotation of employment.**

23 For the purpose of providing greater diversity of training or continuity of employment, any  
24 apprentice agreement made under this Chapter may in the discretion of the Director of  
25 ~~Apprenticeship~~ ApprenticeshipNC be signed by an association of employers or an organization  
26 of employees instead of by an individual employer. In such a case, the apprentice agreement  
27 shall expressly provide that the association of employers or organization of employees does not  
28 assume the obligation of an employer but agrees to use its best endeavors to procure  
29 employment and training for such apprentice with one or more employers who will accept full  
30 responsibility, as herein provided, for all the terms and conditions of employment and training  
31 set forth in said agreement between the apprentice and employer association or employee  
32 organization during the period of each such employment. The apprentice agreement in such a  
33 case shall also expressly provide for the transfer of the apprentice, subject to the approval of the  
34 Director, to such employer or employers who shall sign in written agreement with the  
35 apprentice, and if the apprentice is a minor with his or her parent or guardian, as specified in  
36 G.S. 94-8, contracting to employ said apprentice for the whole or a definite part of the total  
37 period of apprenticeship under the terms and conditions of employment and training set forth in  
38 the said agreement entered into between the apprentice and employer association or employee  
39 organization.

40 **"§ 94-10. Repealed by Session Laws 1945, c. 729, s. 2.**

41 **"§ 94-11. Limitation.**

42 Nothing in this Chapter or in any apprentice agreement approved under this Chapter shall  
43 operate to invalidate any apprenticeship provision in any collective agreement between  
44 employers and employees, setting up higher apprenticeship standards; provided, that none of  
45 the terms or provisions of this Chapter shall apply to any person, firm, corporation or crafts  
46 unless, until, and only so long as such person, firm, corporation or crafts voluntarily elects that  
47 the terms and provisions of this Chapter shall apply. Any person, firm, corporation or crafts  
48 terminating an apprenticeship agreement shall notify the Director of  
49 ~~Apprenticeship.~~ ApprenticeshipNC.

50 **"§ 94-12. Repealed by Session Laws 2015-241, s. 15.13, effective July 1, 2015."**

1           **SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding G.S. 94-2, as amended by this act, the current  
2 members serving on the Apprenticeship Council as of July 1, 2017, shall serve the remainder of  
3 their terms. Thereafter, as terms expire, or when a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a  
4 term, members on the Apprenticeship Council shall be appointed by the State Board of  
5 Community Colleges in accordance with G.S. 94-2, as amended by this act.

6           **SECTION 5.** Of the Workforce Investment Act funds awarded to the Department  
7 of Commerce by the United States Department of Labor, the sum of three hundred fifty  
8 thousand dollars (\$350,000) shall be transferred to the Community Colleges System Office for  
9 the administration of ApprenticeshipNC on a recurring basis for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium.

10           **SECTION 6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Community  
11 Colleges System Office the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in recurring funds  
12 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to increase apprenticeship opportunities across the State.

13           **SECTION 7.** The Department of Commerce shall submit a Workforce Innovation  
14 and Opportunity Act State Plan amendment to the United States Department of Labor to  
15 designate the Community Colleges System Office as the State agency responsible for the  
16 administration of ApprenticeshipNC as provided for in this act.

17           **SECTION 8.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act become effective July 1, 2017. The  
18 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.