



FACT SHEET

AB 805 (Fong)
As Amended xxxxx

SUMMARY

AB 805 increases apprenticeship opportunities for youth between the ages of 16 through 24, many of whom are not in school or employed, commonly referred to as “opportunity youth”. Many of these individuals have experience living with disabilities and homelessness, or have been involved in the foster care or juvenile justice system.

BACKGROUND

SB 191 (Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 67, Statutes of 2022, established two grant programs, one to promote innovation in apprenticeship programs (Apprenticeship Innovation Funding Program) and the other, the Youth Apprenticeship Grant Program, to develop new apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs to serve youth between the ages of 16 through 24. The bill also established youth apprenticeship as a key priority for the state Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) and required the Director of DAS to convene a committee to submit a report to the Legislature with recommendations to expand youth apprenticeships.

In November 2025, DAS released the California Youth Apprenticeship Model [report](#), outlining 18 recommendations to advance youth apprenticeships that will help meet Governor Newsom’s goal of creating 500,000 new apprenticeships each year.

NEED FOR THE BILL

According to the California Youth Apprenticeship Model report, less than one half of one percent of the workforce in the state is in registered apprenticeships, with California serving fewer than 100,000 apprentices per year despite the success apprenticeships have demonstrated in growing employee wages, saving costs for employers, and

expanding the economy. Challenges accessing apprenticeships programs are most acutely experienced by youth and young adults, with the average age of an apprentice in California being over 30 years old.

California is home to the largest number of opportunity youth in the country. The state has a 11.2% disconnection rate, with over half a million teens and young adults between the ages of 16-24 who are neither in school nor working.

Disconnection does not affect all Californians equally. Census data indicates that Hispanic/Latino, Black, and Native American youth are more likely to be disconnected than their peers. Data also indicates that California’s opportunity youth are more likely to live in poverty relative to their peers.

Opportunity youth face unique barriers to education and employment that do not always align with efforts designed to reach adults. As a result, existing programs are unable to fully meet the needs of this critical population.

Failing to engage opportunity youth comes at a significant cost to our state, resulting in a considerable loss of human capital and social costs for these individuals and their communities.

SOLUTION

AB 805 implements key recommendations from the California Youth Apprenticeship Model report. The bill: 1) creates a Career Apprenticeship Bridge (CAB) program to link career and technical education (CTE) and adult education programs with apprenticeship programs; 2) establishes a process to expedite approval of these career pathways; 3) directs DAS to identify local county or regional intermediaries to support the coordination and establishment of apprenticeship programs; 4)



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requires DAS to submit a report to the Legislature identifying barriers to employer participation; and 5) requires reporting on outcomes for youth and young adults participating in the CAB program.

These policies will more seamlessly link existing CTE programs across systems, facilitate new apprenticeship opportunities for youth and young adults, and promote ongoing program quality and performance.

SUPPORT

Alliance of Boys & Men of Color (co-sponsor)
California Opportunity Youth Network (co-sponsor)
California EDGE Coalition (co-sponsor)
UNITE-LA (co-sponsor)

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