



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 57
[Senate Bill 335]

**Apprenticeship Completion
Award Program**

2013 Wisconsin Act 57 creates an apprenticeship completion award program. The Act provides \$225,000 general purpose revenue (GPR) in fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15 to fund awards issued under the program.

Tuition Reimbursement

Under the Act, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) must partially reimburse the tuition costs paid by apprentices who have successfully completed part or all of their apprenticeship requirements and are employed in the trade, occupation, or business in which they are being trained under the apprenticeship program. The Act also provides that a sponsor of a qualifying apprentice, not limited to the employer of an apprentice, is eligible for partial tuition reimbursement for the amount paid by the sponsor. However, a state agency or local governmental unit may not receive an apprenticeship completion award.

Under the program, if DWD determines that an apprentice or sponsor is eligible for an apprenticeship completion award, the department must provide a completion award for 25% of the tuition costs incurred by the apprentice or sponsor, but the award may not exceed \$1,000. Furthermore, the total amount of the completion award is capped at 25% of the tuition costs incurred by the apprentice and the sponsor or \$1,000, whichever is less. The Act permits the department to pay the award in two parts. The first payment may be made upon the successful completion of the first year of an apprenticeship contract, but the amount of the first payment may not exceed \$250. The remainder of the award is paid upon the final completion of all apprenticeship requirements.

Reimbursement if Requests Exceed Available Funding

The Act also provides that if the amount of funds to be distributed under the program exceeds the amount of funds available under the Act's appropriation, DWD may reduce the reimbursement percentage or deny applications for the completion awards that would otherwise qualify. In that case,

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

DWD must determine the reimbursement percentage and eligibility on the basis of the dates on which apprentices and sponsors become eligible for completion awards.

Delinquent Support Obligors

The Act also places certain limitations on individuals seeking a completion award who are delinquent in child support maintenance payments or who owe past support, medical expenses, or birth expenses, if the person's name is on the statewide support lien docket. In these cases, DWD may only provide a completion award if the person provides the department with one of the following:

- A repayment agreement that the person has entered into, that has been accepted by the county child support agency and that has been kept current for the six-month period immediately preceding the date of the application for an award.
- A statement that the person is not delinquent in child support or maintenance payments and does not owe past support, medical expenses, or birth expenses, signed by a representative or designee of the Department of Children and Families within seven working days before the date of the application for a completion award.

Administrative Rules

Under the Act, DWD must promulgate rules to administer the apprenticeship completion award program.

Effective date and initial applicability: The Act took effect on November 16, 2013. The Act first applies to an apprentice who successfully completes part or all of the requirements of his or her apprenticeship program on the first day of the third month after DWD promulgates rules to administer the apprenticeship completion award program.

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November 19, 2013

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