AN ACT to create 106.07 of the statutes; relating to: participation in an apprenticeship program by a high school senior and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill allows a high school senior to begin an apprenticeship program during the student’s senior year of high school.

Under current law, any individual 16 years of age or over may enter into an apprentice contract whereby the individual is to receive from his or her employer, in consideration for the individual’s services, instruction in any trade, craft, or business. That instruction must include a minimum number of hours of related classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

Under the bill, a high school senior may enter into an apprentice contract if the school district in which the student is enrolled does all of the following:

1. Certifies that the student is expected to graduate high school no later than the end of the current school year.

2. Certifies that the student’s proposed on-the-job training schedule allows adequate time for the student to complete any high school graduation requirements no later than the end of the current school year.

3. Agrees to award the student high school credit for the hours of related instruction and on-the-job training the student completes during the first year of the contract.
At the end of the first year of the contract, the student must have earned his or her high school diploma or its equivalent in order to continue in the apprenticeship program.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 106.07 of the statutes is created to read:

106.07 Participation by high school seniors in apprenticeship programs. (1) Definition. In this section, “high school senior” means an individual who is 16 years of age or over and who is enrolled in grade 12 in public school.

(2) Eligibility. A high school senior may enter into an apprentice contract under s. 106.01 that provides for the high school senior to participate in an apprenticeship program if the school district in which the high school senior is enrolled does all of the following:

(a) Certifies that the high school senior is expected to graduate high school no later than the end of the current school year.

(b) Certifies that the high school senior’s proposed on-the-job training schedule allows adequate time for the high school senior to complete any high school graduation requirements no later than the end of the current school year.

(c) Agrees to award high school credit to the high school senior for the hours of related instruction provided by a sponsor under s. 106.01 (6) (b) that the high school senior completes during the first year of the apprentice contract.

(d) Agrees to award high school credit to the high school senior for the hours of on-the-job training the high school senior completes during the first year of the apprentice contract.
(3) On-the-job training during first year of apprentice contract. In addition to any other provisions that are required to be included in an apprentice contract under rules promulgated by the department under s. 106.01 (11) (a), the apprentice contract described in sub. (2) shall provide all of the following:

(a) That, during the first year of the apprentice contract, the employer will employ the high school senior on a part-time basis during any periods of time when the school district in which the high school senior is enrolled is in session.

(b) That the high school senior must complete a minimum of 450 hours of on-the-job training during the first year of the apprentice contract.

(4) High school graduation requirement. No later than one year after the date on which the apprentice contract described in sub. (2) is executed, the high school senior shall provide all parties to the apprentice contract evidence that the high school senior earned his or her high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma. If the high school senior fails to timely provide that evidence, the department may terminate the apprentice contract under s. 106.01 (5p).

(5) Coordination among state agencies. The state workforce development board established under 29 USC 3111, the technical college system board, and the department of public instruction shall assist the department of workforce development in implementing this section and in coordinating participation by high school seniors in apprenticeship programs under this section.

(6) Rules. The department may promulgate rules to implement this section.

Section 2. Initial applicability.
(1) Participation by high school seniors in apprenticeship programs. This act first applies to an individual who is a high school senior, as defined in section 106.07 (1) of the statutes, during the 2018–19 school year.