
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: February 24, 2022

Contact: Peggy Hurley, Staff Attorney

2021 Assembly Bill 973

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 2 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 973

2021 Assembly Bill 973 (the bill) makes certain changes to high school technical and trade educational programs, to apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs, and allows certain subtractions for state income tax purposes.

High School Technical and Trade Education

Current law requires each school board, in cooperation with a technical college district board, to establish a technical preparation program in each public high school in the school district. The program must consist of a sequence of courses, approved by the Technical College System Board (TCS Board), that are designed to allow high school pupils to gain advanced standing in the technical college district's associate degree program upon graduation from high school.

The TCS Board must annually publish a list of these approved courses that indicates the schools in which each course is taught and the credit equivalency available in each technical college district for each course. The bill requires the TCS Board to annually publish a list of courses offered to high school students that meet all of the following criteria:

- The course is offered to adults in an approved apprenticeship program.
- The course is an approved technical college district course.
- The course is taught by school district faculty, by technical college faculty, or by industry professionals who teach, or are qualified to teach, the course to adults in an approved apprenticeship program (TCS-listed apprenticeship courses).

Additionally, the bill requires the TCS Board to facilitate dual enrollment programs between school boards and technical college district boards for TCS-listed apprenticeship courses and to ensure that if a student completes or is awarded partial credit for the course, he or she will receive technical college course credit.

Apprenticeship and Youth Apprenticeship Programs

Under current law, participants in apprenticeship programs may apply to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) for an apprenticeship completion award program (ACAP) for reimbursement, in the amount of the lesser of 25 percent or \$1,000, of tuition paid to participate in the program. The bill:

- Expands the ACAP to also allow reimbursement for the cost of tools and materials and travel costs.

- Creates a youth apprenticeship completion award program (YACAP), under which youth apprentices and employers in the areas of architecture and construction may receive reimbursement for the cost of tools and materials, travel costs, and worksite mentor expenses. Youth apprenticeship completion awards are limited to 25 percent of eligible costs incurred by the apprentice or employer or \$500, whichever is less, for a given year of youth apprenticeship, and participants may receive a maximum of two awards for a total maximum of \$1,000.
- Provides additional funding for the ACAP and YACAP programs.
- Allows an individual, when calculating income for state income tax purposes, to subtract eligible apprenticeship expenses paid by the individual for the individual or the individual's dependent to participate in an apprenticeship program that is approved by DWD.

Current law requires DWD to approve industry-recognized certification programs designed to (a) mitigate workforce shortages and (b) prepare individuals for occupations as fire fighters, emergency medical responders, or emergency medical services practitioners. Current law requires DWD to award incentive grants to school districts with industry-recognized certification programs and requires DWD to annually award completion awards to students in the amount of \$500 for each industry-recognized certification program approved by DWD to prepare individuals for occupations as fire fighters, emergency medical responders, or emergency medical services practitioners. The bill adds programs in construction work to the list of industry-recognized certification programs for which DWD must approve programs and provides additional funding for the incentive grants to school districts described above.

The bill additionally provides \$2,500,000 to provide additional funding for incentive grants to school districts for fiscal year 2022-23 and \$2,550,000 to provide additional funding for ACAP and YACAP awards for fiscal year 2022-23.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 makes the following changes to the bill:

- Allows, in addition to tuition, tools and materials, travel costs, books, instructional guides, and parking costs to be reimbursed by the ACAP.
- Allows costs incurred by non-sponsor employers to be reimbursed as an ACAP expense.
- Requires a person who is subtracting apprenticeship expenses from his or her earnings for income tax purposes to reduce the amount subtracted by any amount he or she was reimbursed through ACAP.
- Removes the reference to a student receiving partial credit for completing a technical preparation course in order to obtain technical college credit.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2 TO ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 2 makes the following changes to the substitute amendment:

- Removes the funding increases for incentive grants to school districts and for apprentice and youth apprenticeship completion awards.
- Delays the effective date of the provisions that broaden the types of expenses that may be reimbursed by the ACAP and YACAP until the day after publication of the 2023 Biennial Budget Act.

- Allows for certain ACAP expenses to be deducted from gross income for tax purposes, but ensures that a person may not deduct expenses that are deducted under another provision of the tax code or are reimbursed by DWD.
- Eliminates mentor expenses from the list of expenses that may be reimbursed by YACAP.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was introduced on February 14, 2022, by Representative Oldenburg. On February 15, 2022, the Assembly Committee on Workforce Development recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of Assembly Bill 973, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 1. Assembly Amendment 2 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was introduced on February 17, 2022, by Representative Oldenburg and adopted on that date. The bill was passed, as amended, on February 17, 2022, by a vote of Ayes, 62; Noes, 30.

PJH:ksm