

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-4063

HB 261, relative to apprenticeship programs in trade and industry.

Hearing Date: April 13, 2021

Time Opened: 9:44 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:50 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators French, Gannon, Bradley, Soucy and Cavanaugh

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill amends the statute governing apprenticeship programs and repeals the provisions governing apprenticeship agreements.

Sponsors:
Rep. Seaworth

Who supports the bill: Representative Brian Seaworth, Deputy Commissioner Rudolph Ogden (NH Department of Labor), Eric Pauer

Who opposes the bill: Glenn Brackett, Alan Raff (NH AFL-CIO), Tony Sapienza, David Spechuilli, David Dellisola

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Brian Seaworth

- This bill came at the request of the New Hampshire Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor.
- This bill would make language and duty changes to RSA 278, which is the statute that governs the New Hampshire Apprenticeship Council.
- In 2007, the U.S. Department of Labor took over some of the duties that still remain assigned to the Council in existing state statute.
- Representative Seaworth emphasized that this bill isn't attempting to make any policy changes or restrict the Council in any way. Instead, it's trying to align state and federal requirements.

Rudolph Ogden, Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Labor

- Since 2007, the U.S. Department of Labor has been responsible for promulgating standards for apprenticeship programs.
- In New Hampshire, the U.S. Department of Labor has been the agency responsible for registering apprenticeship programs, setting standards for apprenticeship programs, and providing technical guidance to registered apprenticeship programs.
- This bill would make no changes to existing practices, which have been in place since 2007. Instead, this bill seeks to clarify the existing state statute and ensure it reflects existing reality.
- Deputy Commissioner Ogden said the department had assuaged the concerns brought forth by some trade industry members by putting them in contact with the Office of Apprenticeship, which is based in Concord.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 13, 2021