

## Article - Labor and Employment

§11-603. IN EFFECT

// EFFECTIVE UNTIL JUNE 30, 2018 PER CHAPTER 140 OF 2015 //

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Eligible career track” means an occupation in the manufacturing industry or the science, technology, engineering, and math industries.

(3) “Eligible employer” means an employer that:

(i) has an apprentice position available for a high school student in an eligible career track; and

(ii) the Apprenticeship and Training Council approves under § 11-405(b) of this title.

(4) “Eligible student” means a student who is:

(i) interested in obtaining a license or certification in a skilled occupation; and

(ii) a junior or senior in a high school in the State.

(5) “Program” means Apprenticeship Maryland.

(b) (1) There is an apprenticeship pilot program in the State called Apprenticeship Maryland.

(2) The Program shall begin in the summer of 2016 and last for 2 years.

(3) The purpose of the Program is to prepare students to enter the workforce by providing some of the necessary on-site employment training and related classroom instruction needed to obtain a license or certification for a skilled occupation.

(c) (1) (i) The State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department and the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, shall develop criteria for the selection of two local school systems to participate in the Program.

(ii) As part of the criteria developed under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the State Department of Education shall consider, to the extent practicable, providing for the selection of one urban school system and one rural school system to participate in the Program.

(2) The State Department of Education shall collaborate with the

Department, the Department of Economic Competitiveness and Commerce, and representatives of the business community to develop criteria for and identify eligible employers.

(d) The State Department of Education shall use the criteria developed under subsection (c) of this section to select two local school systems to participate in the Program.

(e) Each county superintendent from a participating school system may select up to 60 students to participate in the Program.

(f) A student selected to participate in the Program:

(1) may start the Program in the summer or fall of the student's junior or senior year in high school;

(2) shall complete at least 450 hours of work-based training under the supervision of an eligible employer;

(3) shall receive at least 1 year of classroom instruction that is related to the eligible career track of the student;

(4) shall receive credit toward a high school diploma or a postsecondary credential, or both, for the work-based training and classroom instruction completed under the Program; and

(5) shall complete the Program before August 31 following the student's graduation from high school.

(g) The Department shall issue a skills certificate to each eligible student who completes the Program.

(h) Each eligible employer shall pay an eligible student at least the applicable minimum wage subject to any lawful exemptions.

(i) The Department and the State Department of Education shall work together to explore options for increasing the availability of and access to youth apprenticeship programs based on the experiences of other states and countries, as well as the results of the Program.

(j) On or before December 1, 2016, and December 1, 2017, the Department and the State Department of Education shall report jointly to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly regarding the effectiveness of the Program and including:

(1) the number of students participating in the Program from each participating school system;

(2) wage information regarding payments disbursed to students participating in the Program;

(3) feedback from students participating in the Program on ways to improve the Program;

(4) the types of workforce skills and training that the students participating in the Program were able to acquire;

(5) the number of students who completed the Program;

(6) the number of students that employers retained; and

(7) recommendations to expand or discontinue the Program.

(k) The Department and the State Department of Education jointly may adopt regulations to implement the Program.