

Senate Bill 23-051, Conforming Workforce Development Statutes

Legislative Fact Sheet February 21, 2023

Sponsors: Senator Hinrichsen, Senator Sullivan, Representative Ortiz & Representative Lukens

Background:

In 2019, the Office of Future of Work (OFW) was established through Executive Order B 2019 009 to prepare for the rapidly changing nature of work. Since then, OFW has been tasked with researching the independent/gig workforce, leading the state's digital equity, literacy, and inclusion work, and coordinating registered apprenticeships in Colorado.

In 2021, House Bill 21-1007 created the State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) in CDLE, with a July 1, 2023 deadline to begin registering apprenticeship programs. The Department has established two Councils to work with the SAA and hired a director and staff to prepare for this deadline and to take over the regulatory duties currently administered by USDOL. As the administrative unit coordinating registered apprenticeships, OFW was tasked with implementing the SAA and seeking recognition from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Office of Apprenticeship.

Summary of Legislation:

Fiscal Impact: None

Senate Bill 23-051 establishes OFW in statute, in order to ensure that Colorado has the programs and infrastructure to respond to a dynamic economy. By codifying OFW in statute, the Office can continue to serve as a central point for the state's efforts to identify emerging trends, build new programs and policies to respond to Colorado's evolving economy and workforce, and support workers as they adapt to an ever-changing landscape.

The Department is also requesting updates to the SAA, its councils and apprenticeship-related statutes, in order to comply with the guidance of the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship. Per this guidance, the Department must update the statute to simply conform with federal regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Labor under the National Apprenticeship Act, 29 U.S.C. 50 by inserting language that clearly delineates the authority of the SAA and the State Apprenticeship Council and confirms that the Council is advisory in nature and operate under the direction of the SAA. Where apprenticeships are mentioned in existing statute, this legislation would ensure that the language accurately refers to the roles of USDOL and the SAA. These changes will guarantee that the SAA is well positioned to be granted recognition by USDOL and begin registering apprenticeship programs by July 1, 2023, per state statute.

riscai illipact. Nolle.		
	Contact Information	