

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2524 (Gipson) – As Amended April 27, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes the juvenile court to issue a work permit, to a foster or justice-involved youth in-lieu of a school district, charter school, or private school, but provides authority for revocation of the permit if the student does not maintain the school's eligibility criteria. The bill requires a school, if it revokes a student's permit, to provide notice to the juvenile court within 60 days of the revocation.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

No new state costs.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According Alameda County Office of Education, writing in support of this bill:

Currently, students under the age of 18 must obtain work permits through school officials, who typically require consistent enrollment, regular attendance, and a minimum 2.0 GPA. For justice-involved and foster youth navigating housing instability and a lack of adult support, these prerequisites can create barriers to obtaining a work permit. As a result, many vulnerable youth are barred from lawful employment. By authorizing judges and judicial officers to issue work permits for minors under the court's jurisdiction, including delinquent and dependency youth, AB 2524 would provide an alternative pathway for these vulnerable youth to obtain work permits and access lawful employment.

2) **Background.** Under current law, a minor wishing to pursue employment in California must obtain a work permit provided by the school district where the student is enrolled. These permits exist as part of a larger process to ensure students are protected from exploitation and that a student's employment hours are not detrimental to their education. Typically, a school district will place academic and enrollment conditions for students to earn eligibility. However, in the case of justice-involved youth and foster youth, it is extremely difficult to meet such criteria because such a youth may have only recently arrived at a given school site and not yet been able to establish satisfactory grades or attendance. According to a 2022 report by Children Now, in the case of foster youth having difficulty accessing employment:

They also face barriers to accessing the documents and resources that are needed to facilitate employment. For example, when children are

removed from their home, their biological family may retain their vital documents, such as birth certificates or Social Security cards, which may then be difficult for a young person to obtain.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081