
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1012 (Smallwood-Cuevas) - Employment of inmates

Version: April 15, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0, L., P.E. & R. 5
- 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: May 4, 2026

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: SB 1012 would (1) require the Pre-Release Construction Trades Certificate Program's joint advisory committee, in consultation with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), and the fire camp program, to facilitate the post-release admission of program graduates into any relevant state-approved apprenticeship and require state-approved apprenticeship programs to evaluate these individuals for admission with advanced standing, (2) require that successful completion of the fire camp program constitutes a qualifying experience for a state-approved apprenticeship, and (3) require CDCR, in partnership with Cal Fire and the fire camp program, to ensure that all individuals who complete the fire camp program receive a certification acknowledging their fire camp training and work experience to ensure eligibility for state-approved apprenticeship programs.

Fiscal Impact: CDCR would incur significant annual costs for additional workload associated with program development and expansion, interdepartmental coordination and the validation and tracking of training skills and competencies.

CalFire and DIR would likely incur minor costs to participate with the joint advisory committee to facilitate the admission of graduates of the program into apprenticeship programs.

Background: In 2018, the Legislature established the Pre-Release Construction Trades Certification Program, administered by CDCR, to increase employment opportunities in the construction trades for inmates upon release. The program is overseen by a joint advisory committee, composed of representatives from building and construction trades employee organizations, the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, joint apprenticeship training programs, the California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Authority, the Division of Apprenticeship Standards in the DIR, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, and any other representatives the department determines appropriate.

The DAS administers the state's apprenticeship laws and enforces apprenticeship standards for wages, hours, working conditions and the specific skills required for state certification as a journey person in an apprenticeable occupation. In general, apprenticeship programs provide instruction that combines a formal course of in-class instruction with practical "on-the-job" training.

Preapprenticeship services and programs are designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in registered apprenticeship programs. These programs have a documented partnership with at least one registered apprenticeship program sponsor and together, they expand the participant's career pathway opportunities with industry-based training coupled with classroom instruction.