

**RULES AND REGULATIONS
RELATING TO
LABOR STANDARDS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS UNDER
TITLE 28, CHAPTER 45 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS IN TRADE & INDUSTRY**

LEGAL NOTICE OF PROMULGATION OF RULES

The Division of Professional Regulation within the Department of Labor and Training, under the authority granted by Chapter 45 of Title 28 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956, as amended, adopts, amends, modifies and rejects general and special rules and regulations under Chapter 35 of Title 42 of the General Laws of Rhode Island as amended and proposes the following amendments:

**As Amended October 2010
April 2013 (proposed)**

Section 1. Purpose and Scope -

- (a) Title 28, Chapter 45, authorizes the Rhode Island Apprenticeship Council to formulate and promote the furtherance of labor standards necessary to safeguard the welfare of apprentices and to extend the application of such standards by requiring the inclusion thereof in contracts of apprenticeship.
- (b) The purpose of this regulation is to set forth labor standards to safeguard the welfare of apprentices, and to extend the application of such standards by prescribing rules and regulations concerning the registration of acceptable apprenticeship programs. These labor standards, rules and regulations cover the registration, termination and deregistration of apprenticeship programs and of apprenticeship agreements and matters relating thereto.
- (c) The provisions of this regulation shall apply to a person, firm, corporation or craft only after such person, firm, corporation or craft has voluntarily elected to conform with its provision.

Section 2. Definitions - As used in this regulation:

a. ~~"Council" means the Rhode Island Apprenticeship and Training Council~~

(a) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Office of Apprenticeship, or any person specifically designated by the Administrator.

b. ~~"Apprentice" means a person participating, through employment, in an approved schedule requiring not less than 2,000 hours of on-the-job work experience supplemented by related instruction and who is a party of an apprenticeship agreement registered with the Council.~~

(b) "Apprentice" means a person of at least sixteen years of age, participating, through employment, in an approved schedule requiring not less than 2,000 hours of on-the-job work experience supplemented by related instruction and who is a party of an approved apprenticeship agreement registered with the Department.

e. ~~"Apprenticeship Agreement" means a written agreement which conforms to standards established under Title 28, Chapter 45 and this regulation and is entered into between an apprentice and either (1) an employer, (2) an association of employers, (3) an organization of employees, or (4) a joint committee representing employers and employees.~~

(c) "Apprenticeship Agreement" means a written agreement complying with 29 CFR 29.7 between an apprentice and either the apprenticeship program sponsor, or an apprenticeship committee acting as agent for the program sponsor(s), which contains the terms and conditions of the employment and training of the apprentice.

d. ~~"Apprenticeship Program" means a plan containing all terms and conditions for the qualification, recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices, including such matters as the requirements for a written apprenticeship agreement.~~

(d) "Apprenticeship Committee" means those persons designated by the sponsor to act for it in the administration of the program. A committee may be "joint", i.e., it is composed of an equal number of employer representatives and employees representatives represented by a bona fide collective bargaining agent(s) and has been established to conduct, operate, or administer an apprenticeship program and enter into apprenticeship agreements with apprentices. A committee may be "unilateral" or "non-joint" and shall mean a program sponsor in which a bona fide collective bargaining agent is not a participant; it includes an individual non-joint sponsor and a group non joint sponsor.

e. ~~"Apprenticeship Standard" means the written document which sets forth the minimum labor standards required by law for training apprentices in a specified industry, area or plant. By reference, it is a part of the apprenticeship agreement. There are two basic types of standards—one providing for joint employer-union participation in the program and the second, referred to as unilateral standards, where responsibility for the apprenticeship is assumed by either management or organized labor, but not both. Normally, unilateral programs are sponsored by single employers.~~

(e) “Apprenticeship Program” means a plan containing all terms and conditions for the qualification, recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices, as required under 29 CFR parts 29 and 30, including such matters as the requirements for a written apprenticeship agreement.

~~f. “Sponsor” means any person, association, committee or organization operating an apprenticeship program and in whose name the program is approved and registered.~~

(f) “Apprenticeship Standard” means the written document which sets forth the minimum labor standards required by law for training apprentices in a specified industry, area or plant. By reference, it is a part of the apprenticeship agreement. There are two basic types of standards — one providing for joint employer-union participation in the program and the second, referred to as unilateral standards, where responsibility for the apprenticeship is assumed by either management or organized labor, but not both. Normally, unilateral programs are sponsored by single employers.

~~g. “Employer” means any person or organization employing an apprentice whether or not such person or organization is a party to an apprenticeship agreement with the apprentice.~~

(g) “Cancellation” means the termination of the registration or approval status of a program at the request of the sponsor, or termination of an Apprenticeship Agreement at the request of the apprentice.

~~h. “Apprenticeship Committee” means those persons designated by the sponsor to act for it in the administration of the program. A committee may be “joint”, i.e., it is composed of an equal number of employer representatives and employee representatives represented by a bona fide collective bargaining agent(s) and has been established to conduct, operate, or administer an apprenticeship program and enter into apprenticeship agreements with apprentices. A committee may be “unilateral” or “non joint” and shall mean a program sponsor in which a bona fide collective bargaining agent is not a participant; it includes an individual non joint sponsor (apprenticeship program sponsored by one employer without the participation of a union) and a group non joint sponsor (apprenticeship program sponsored by two or more employers without the participation of a union).~~

(h) “Certification or Certificate” means documentary evidence that:

(1) The Office of Apprenticeship has approved as a set of National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards developed by a national committee or organization, joint or unilateral, for policy or guideline use by local affiliates, as conforming to the standards of apprenticeship set forth in 29 CFR 29. 5;

- (2) The Department has established that an individual is eligible for probationary employment as an apprentice under a registered apprenticeship program;
 - (3) The Department has registered an apprenticeship program as evidenced by a Certificate of Registration or other written indicia;
 - (4) The Department has determined that an apprentice has successfully met the requirements to receive an interim credential; or
 - (5) The Department has determined that an individual has successfully completed apprenticeship pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 28-45-3.
- ~~i. "Related Instruction" means an organized and systematic form of instruction designated to provide the apprentice with knowledge of the theoretical and technical subjects related to his/her trade.~~
 - (i) "Competency" means the attainment of manual, mechanical or technical skills and knowledge as specified by an occupational standard and demonstrated by an appropriate written and hands-on proficiency measurement pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 28-45-9.
 - ~~j. "Registration of an Apprenticeship Program" means the acceptance and recording of such program by the Council as meeting the basic standards and requirements of the Council for approval of such program. Approval is evidenced by a certificate of registration or other written indicia.~~
 - (j) "Completion Rate" means the percentage of an apprenticeship cohort who receives a certificate of apprenticeship completion within 1 year of the projected completion date. An apprenticeship cohort is the group of individual apprentices registered to a specific program during a 1 year time frame, except that a cohort does not include the apprentices whose apprenticeship agreement has been cancelled during the probationary period.
 - ~~k. "Registration of an Apprenticeship Agreement" means the acceptance and recording thereof by the Council Department as evidence of the participation of the apprentice in a particular registered apprenticeship program.~~
 - (k) "Council or State Apprenticeship Council" (SAC) is an entity established as part of the department of labor and training, and operating under its direction, in order to assist the department by (1) promulgating regulations consistent with 29 CFR 29 and 30 and (2) providing advice and guidance to the director of the department of labor and training on the operation of the Rhode Island apprenticeship program.
 - (l) "Department" means the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.

- (m) “Electronic Media” means media that utilize electronics or electromechanical energy for the end user (audience) to access the content; and includes, but is not limited to, electronic storage media, transmission media, the Internet, extranet, lease lines, dial-up lines, private networks, and the physical movement of removable/transportable electronic media and/or interactive distance learning.
- (n) “Employer” means any person or organization employing an apprentice whether or not such person or organization is a party to an apprenticeship agreement with the apprentice.
- (o) “Federal Purposes” includes any Federal contract, grant, agreement or arrangement dealing with apprenticeship; and any Federal financial or other assistance, benefit, privilege, contribution, allowance, exemption, preference or right pertaining to apprenticeship.
- (p) “Interim Credential” means a credential issued by the Department, upon request of the appropriate sponsor, as certification of competency attainment by an apprentice.
- (q) “Journeyworker or Journeyperson” means a worker who has attained a level of skill, abilities and competencies recognized within an industry as having mastered the skills and competencies required for the occupation. Use of the term may also refer to a mentor, technician, specialist, or other skilled worker who has documented sufficient skills and knowledge of a occupation, either through formal apprenticeship or through practical on-the-job experience and formal training.
- (r) “Office of Apprenticeship” means the office designated by the Employment and Training Administration to administer the National Apprenticeship System or its successor organization.
- (s) “Provisional Registration” means the 1-year initial provisional approval of newly registered programs that meet the required standards for program registration, after which program approval may be made permanent, continued as provisional, or rescinded following a review by the Council, as provided for in the criteria described in Section 3 herein.
- (t) “Quality Assurance Assessment” means a comprehensive review conducted by the Department regarding all aspects of an apprenticeship program’s performance, including but not limited to, determining if apprentices are receiving: on-the-job training in all phases of the apprenticeable occupation; scheduled wage increases consistent with the registered standards; related instruction through appropriate curriculum and delivery systems; and that the Department is receiving notification of all new registrations, cancellations, and completions as required herein.
- (u) “Registration Agency” means the Office of Apprenticeship (acting as a registration agency) or a state recognized apprenticeship agency, including the Department.

- (v) "Registration of an Apprenticeship Agreement" means the acceptance and recording thereof by the Department as evidence of the participation of the apprentice in a particular registered apprenticeship program.
- (w) "Registration of an Apprenticeship Program" means the acceptance and recording of such program by the Department as meeting the basic standards and requirements of the Department for approval of such program. Approval is evidenced by a certificate of registration or other written indicia.
- (x) "Related Instruction" means an organized and systematic form of instruction designated to provide the apprentice with knowledge of the theoretical and technical subjects related to the apprentice's occupation. Such instruction may be given in a classroom, through occupational or industrial courses, or by correspondence courses of equivalent value, electronic media, or other forms of self-study approved by the Department.
- (y) "Secretary" means the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary of Labor or any person designated by the Secretary.
- (z) "Sponsor" means any person, association, committee or organization operating an apprenticeship program and in whose name the program is (or is to be) registered or approved.
- (aa) "Technical Assistance" means guidance provided by Department staff in the development, revision amendment, or processing of a potential or current program sponsor's Standards of Apprenticeship, Apprenticeship Agreements, or advice or consultation with a program sponsor to further compliance with this part.
- (bb) "Transfer" means a shift of apprenticeship registration from one program to another or from one employer within a program to another employer within that same program, where there is agreement between the apprentice and the affected apprenticeship committees or program sponsors.

Section 3. Eligibility and Procedure for Council Registration -

- ~~a. No apprenticeship program or agreement shall be eligible for Council registration unless it is in conformity with the requirements of Title 28, Chapter 45 of this regulation, and the training is in an apprenticeable occupation requiring not less than 2,000 hours of on job work experience and the characteristics set forth in Title 28, Chapter 45.~~
- (a) Eligibility for registration of an apprenticeship program for various Federal purposes is conditioned upon a program's conformity with the apprenticeship program standards published in this part. For a program to be determined by the Secretary as being in conformity with these published standards, the program must apply for registration and be registered with the Office of Apprenticeship or with a State

Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship. The determination by the Secretary that the program meets the apprenticeship program standards is effectuated only through such registration.

~~b. Apprentices must be individually registered under a registered program. Such registration shall be effected by filing copies of each apprenticeship agreement with the Council. Registration shall be reserved for those desiring to learn a trade through reasonably continuous employment. Agreements shall not be registered for persons desiring only interim work or employed on a substantially shorter work week than is prevailing in the industry. This, however, does not apply to students pursuing a course of study in the same trade or closely related to the trade for which application is being made for registration.~~

(b) Only an apprenticeship program or agreement that meets the following criteria is eligible for Department registration:

(1) It is in conformity with the requirements of this part and the training is in an apprenticeable occupation having the characteristics set forth in Section 4; and

(2) It is in conformity with the requirements of the Office of Apprenticeship regulations on Equal Employment Opportunity in Apprenticeship and Training in 29 CFR 30.

~~c. The Council shall be notified promptly of the termination or suspension of any apprenticeship agreement, with cause for same, and of apprenticeship completions.~~

(c) Except as provided under paragraph (d) of this section, apprentices must be individually registered under a registered program. Such individual registration may be affected:

(1) By filing copies of each individual apprenticeship agreement with the Department; or

(2) Subject to Department approval, by filing a master copy of such agreement followed by a listing of the name, and other required data, of each individual when apprenticed.

(3) Such registration shall be made by filing the individual apprenticeship agreement with the Department within forty-five (45) calendar days of the date of selection, and shall become effective upon signature by the Department. The names of persons in probationary employment as an apprentice under an apprenticeship program registered by the Department, if not individually registered under such program, must be submitted within 45 days of employment to the Department for certification to establish the apprentice as eligible for such probationary employment, unless prohibited by applicable licensing law.

~~d. Approved apprenticeship programs shall be accorded registration, evidenced by a certificate of registration.~~

(d) The Department must be notified within 45 days of persons who have successfully completed apprenticeship programs; and of transfers, suspensions, and cancellations of apprenticeship agreements and a statement of the reasons therefore.

~~e. Any modification(s) or change(s) to registered standards shall be promptly submitted to the Council, and if approved, shall be recorded and acknowledged as a revision of such standards.~~

(e) Operating apprenticeship programs, when approved by the Department, are accorded registration and/or approval evidenced by a certificate of registration or other similar written indicia.

~~f. The request for registration, together with all documents and data required by Title 28, Chapter 45 and this regulation, shall be submitted to the Council.~~

(f) Applications for new programs that the Department determines meet the required standards for program registration must be given provisional approval for a period of 1 year. The Department must review all new programs for quality and for conformity with the requirements of this part at the end of the first year after registration. At that time:

(1) A program that conforms with the requirements of this part:

(i) May be made permanent; or

(ii) May continue to be provisionally approved through the first full training cycle.

(2) A program not in operation or not conforming to the regulations during the provisional approval period must be recommended for deregistration procedures.

~~g. Under a program proposed for registration by an employer or employers' association, where the standards, collective bargaining agreement or other instrument, provides for participation by a union in any matter in the operation of the substantive matters of the apprenticeship program, and such participation is exercised, written acknowledgement of union agreement or "no objection" to the registration is required. Where no such participation is evidenced and practiced, the employer or employers' association shall simultaneously furnish to the union, if any, which is the collective bargaining agent of the employees to be trained, a copy of its application for registration and of the apprenticeship program. The Council shall provide a reasonable time period of not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days for receipt of union comments, if any, before final~~

action on the application for registration and/or approval.

(g) The Department must review all programs for quality and for conformity with the requirements of this part at the end of the first full training cycle. A satisfactory review of a provisionally approved program will result in conversion of provisional approval to permanent registration. Subsequent reviews must be conducted no less frequently than every five years. Programs not in operation or not conforming to the regulations must be recommended for deregistration procedures.

Any sponsor proposals or applications for modification(s) or change(s) to registered programs for Apprenticeship Standards must be submitted to the Department. The Department must make a determination on whether to approve such submissions within 90 days from the date of receipt. If approved, the modification(s) or change(s) will be recorded and acknowledged within 90 days of approval as amendment to such program. If not approved, the sponsor must be notified of the disapproval and the reasons therefore and provided the appropriate technical assistance.

~~h. Where the employees to be trained have no collective bargaining agent, an apprenticeship program may be proposed for registration by an employer or group of employers.~~

(h) If the sponsor is involved in any abnormal labor condition such as a strike, lockout, or other similar condition, the application for an apprenticeship program may be withheld until such issue is resolved.

~~i. If the sponsor is involved in any abnormal labor condition such as a strike, lockout, or other similar condition, the application for an apprenticeship program may be withheld until such issue is resolved.~~

(i) If it should be determined by the Department that a sponsor is in violation of any Federal or State Labor laws or rules and regulations affecting registration of programs, the application for an apprenticeship program may be withheld until such issues are resolved.

(j) Under a program proposed for registration by an employer or employers' association, where the standards, collective bargaining agreement or other instrument, provides for participation by a union in any matter in the operation of the substantive matters of the apprenticeship program, and such participation is exercised, written acknowledgement of union agreement or no objection to the registration is required. Where no such participation is evidenced and practiced, the employer or employers' association shall simultaneously furnish to an existing union, if any, which is the collective bargaining agent of the employees to be trained, a copy of its application for registration and of the apprenticeship program. The Department shall provide for receipt of union comments, if any, within 45 days before final action on the application for registration and/or approval.

(k) Where the employees to be trained have no collective bargaining agreement, an apprenticeship program may be proposed for registration by an employer or group of employers, or an employer association.

Section 4. Criteria for Apprenticeable Occupations -

An apprenticeable occupation ~~is a skilled trade which~~ shall possess all of the following characteristics:

- a. (a) Is customarily learned in a practical way through a structured systematic program on on-the-job supervised ~~training~~ learning;
- b. (b) It is clearly identified and commonly recognized throughout an industry;
- c. It involves manual, mechanical or technical skills and knowledge which require a minimum number of hours as required by statute of on-the-job work experience; and
- (c) It involves the progressive attainment of manual, mechanical or technical skills and knowledge which, in accordance with the industry standard for the occupation, would require the completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning to attain; and
- ~~d.~~ (d) It requires related instruction to supplement the on-the-job ~~training~~ learning.

Section 5. Standards of Apprenticeship -

An apprenticeship program to be eligible for registration by the ~~Council~~ Department shall conform to the following standards:

- a. (a) The program is ~~an organized,~~ a written plan (program standards) embodying the terms and conditions of employment, training and supervision of one or more apprentices in the apprenticeable occupation, as defined in Title 28, Chapter 45, and this regulation, and this regulation, and subscribed to by a sponsor who has undertaken to carry out the apprentice training program.
- b. (b) The following standards are prescribed for an apprenticeship program:
 - ~~1. A statement of the trade or craft to be taught and the required hours for completion of apprenticeship which shall not be less than the statutory minimum number of hours of reasonably continuous employment;~~

(1) the employment and training of the apprentice in a skilled trade, craft or occupation;

2. ~~An outline of work processes in which the apprentice will receive supervised work experience and training on the job, and the allocation of the approximate time to be spent in each major process;~~

(2) The term of apprenticeship, which for an individual apprentice may be measured either through the completion of the industry standard for on-the-job learning (at least 2,000 hours) (time-based approach), the attainment of competency (competency-based approach), or a blend of the time-based and competency-based approaches (hybrid approach):

(i) The time-based approach measures skill acquisition through the individual apprentice's completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning as described in a work process schedule.

(ii) The competency-based approach measures skill acquisition through the individual apprentice's successful demonstration of acquired skills and knowledge, as verified by the program sponsor. Programs utilizing this approach must still require apprentices to complete an on-the-job learning component of registered apprenticeship. The program standards must address how on-the-job learning will be integrated into the program, describe competencies, and identify an appropriate means of testing and evaluation for such competencies.

(iii) The hybrid approach measures the individual apprentice's skill acquisition through a combination of specified minimum number of hours of on-the-job learning and the successful demonstration of competency as described in a work process schedule.

(iv) The determination of the appropriate approach for the program standards is made by the program sponsor, subject to approval by the Department of the determination as appropriate to the apprenticeable occupation for which the program standards are registered.

~~3. A statement of the number of hours to be spent in related instruction which shall not be less than the statutory minimum number of hours per year, provided that the Council may, in the best interest of apprenticeship, reduce the hours of related instruction of which instruction may be given in a classroom through trade or industrial courses, or by correspondence courses of equivalent value, or other forms of self-study approved by the Council;~~

(3) An outline of work processes in which the apprentice will receive supervised work experience and on-the-job learning, and the allocation of the approximate time to be spent in each major process;

~~4. A statement that apprentices shall be not less than sixteen years of age, with the exception of a higher age requirement which the Council has determined applicable in accordance with the State and Federal Child Labor Laws;~~

(4) Provision for organized, related instruction in technical subjects related to the occupation, including a description of how testing and evaluation will be administered. A minimum of 144 hours for each year of apprenticeship is recommended. This instruction in technical

subjects may be accomplished through media such as classroom, occupational or industry courses, electronic media, or other instruction approved by the Department. Related and supplemental instruction may be provided in person or via electronic media.

(i) The sponsor shall provide the following information in order to be granted approval for the use of electronic media:

a. The rationale for implementing the electronic media;

b. The type(s) and availability of electronic media to be utilized;

c. A list of the courses, description, and the number of hours required to complete each course being delivered by electronic media;

(ii) Every apprenticeship instructor must:

a. Meet the Rhode Island Department of Education's requirements for a vocational-technical instructor in Rhode Island or be a subject matter expert, which is an individual, such as a journeyworker, who is recognized within an industry as having expertise in a specific occupation; and

b. Have training in teaching techniques and adult learning styles, which may occur before or after the apprenticeship instructor has started to provide the related technical instruction;

~~5. (5) A statement of the progressively increasing scale of wages to be paid the apprentice consistent with the skill acquired, the entry wage to be not less than the minimum wage prescribed by the Federal and State Labor Standards Acts, where applicable, unless a higher wage is required by other applicable Federal law, State law, respective regulations, or by collective bargaining agreement;~~

~~6. (6) A provision for probationary period reasonable in relation to the full apprenticeship term, with full credit given for such period toward completion of apprenticeship; the probationary period cannot exceed 25 percent of the length of the program, or 1 year, whichever is greater;~~

~~7. A provision that during the period of probation, the Council shall be directed to terminate an apprenticeship agreement at the request in writing of any party thereto;~~

(7) Authority for the cancellation of an apprenticeship agreement during the probationary period by either party without stated cause; cancellation during the probationary period will not have an adverse impact on the sponsor's completion rate;

8. (8) A provision that after the probationary period, the Council shall be empowered to terminate an apprenticeship agreement upon agreement of the parties thereto, or for good cause on the Council's own motion after giving all parties notice and opportunity to be heard;
- ~~8. Provision that the services of the Council may be utilized for consultation regarding the settlement of differences arising out of apprenticeship agreement and where the differences cannot be adjusted locally, or in accordance with the established trade procedure, and any such differences which cannot be amicably settled by the parties may be submitted to the Council for final decision;~~
- (9) Adequate and safe equipment and facilities for training and supervision, and safety training for apprentices on the job and in related instruction.
- ~~10. (10) Provision for ~~T~~the numeric ratio of apprentices to journeypersonsmen consistent with proper supervision, training, safety, and reasonable continuity of employment, and applicable provisions in collective bargaining agreements. The ratio language shall be specific and clear as to application in terms of jobsite, work force, department or plant. The initial ratio of apprentice to journeymen is 1-1 and the remaining ratios are set forth in Appendix A attached hereto and made a part herein shall apply to each respective apprenticeable trade and is applicable to all participating employers in each apprenticeable trade, craft or occupation;~~
- ~~11. Provision for transfer of employer's training obligation when the employer is unable to fulfill the obligation under the apprenticeship agreement to another employer under the same program with the consent of the apprentice and apprenticeship committee or program sponsor, with full credit to the apprentice for satisfactory time and training earned;~~
- (11)The transfer of an apprentice between apprenticeship programs and within an apprenticeship program must be based on agreement between the apprentice and the affected apprenticeship committees or program sponsors, and must comply with the following requirements:
- (i) the transferring apprentice must be provided a transcript of related instruction and on-the-job learning by the committee or program sponsor;
 - (ii) Transfer must be to the same occupation;
 - (iii) A new apprenticeship agreement must be executed when the transfer occurs between program sponsors;
 - (iv) the apprentice conforms to the work process contained in the new apprenticeship agreement.

- ~~12.~~ (12) Provision for minimum qualifications required by a sponsor for persons entering the apprenticeship program; an apprentice may be 16 years of age or higher unless a higher minimum age is fixed by law;
- ~~13.~~ Provision for granting of an advanced standing or credit for previously acquired experience, training, or skills for all applicants equally, with commensurate wages for any progression step so granted;
- (13) The granting of advanced standing or credit for demonstrated competency, acquired experience, training, or skills for all applicants equally, with commensurate wages for any progression step so granted;
- ~~14.~~ (14) A provision that the employer shall instruct the apprentice in safe and healthful work practices and shall insure that the apprentice is trained in facilities and other environments that are in compliance with either the occupational safety and health standards promulgated by the Secretary of Labor under Public Law 91-596 the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 as amended, or State standards that have been found to be at least as effective as the Federal standards;
- ~~15.~~ (15) A provision for the placement of an apprentice under a written apprenticeship agreement, which shall directly, or by reference, incorporate the standards of the program as part of this agreement;
- ~~16.~~ (16) A provision for periodic review and evaluation of the apprentice's progress in job performance and in related instruction, and the maintenance of appropriate progress records;
- ~~17.~~ (17) A provision of recognition for successful completion of apprenticeship evidenced by an appropriate certificate;
- ~~18.~~ (18) Identification of the ~~registration agency~~ Department;
- ~~19.~~ (19) A statement that the regular work day or work week for apprentices shall not be greater than those of the journeymen;
- ~~20.~~ (20) Provision for the registration, cancellation and deregistration of the program, and requirement for the prompt submission of any modification or revision thereto;
- ~~21.~~ (21) Provision for registration of apprenticeship agreements and revisions, notice to the Council Department of persons who have successfully completed apprenticeship programs, and notice of transfers, terminations and suspensions of apprenticeship agreements and causes therefore;
- ~~22.~~ (22) A statement of how the committee is to be organized and a statement of the functions of the committee are required if the program sponsor is a joint apprenticeship committee;

~~23. A statement containing the equal opportunity pledge prescribed as follows: "The recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices during their apprenticeship, shall be without discrimination because of race, sex, age, religion, color, ancestry, physical handicap, marital status, or arrest and court record":~~

(23) Compliance with 29 CFR 30, including the equal opportunity pledge prescribed in 29 CFR 30.3(b); an affirmative action plan complying with 29 CFR 30.4; and a method for the selection of apprentices authorized by 29 CFR 30.5, or compliance with parallel requirements contained in a State plan for equal opportunity in apprenticeship adopted under 29 CFR 30 and approved by the Department. The apprenticeship standards must also include a statement that the program will be conducted, operated and administered in conformity with applicable provisions of 29 CFR 30, as amended, or, if applicable, an approved State plan for equal opportunity in apprenticeship;

~~24. (24) Name and address, telephone number, and email address, if applicable, of the appropriate authority under the program to receive, process and make disposition of complaints;~~

~~25. (25) Provision for a participating employer's agreement; and,~~

~~26. (26) All apprenticeship standards must contain articles to comply with Federal laws, regulations and rules pertaining to apprenticeship; e, Any party aggrieved by these rules and regulations relating to apprenticeship standards may apply for an exemption from any rule or regulation at any time for good cause, by making written application to the State Apprenticeship Council (SAC) for such an exemption, citing the reasons for the exemption. Upon final determination by the SAC, any party denied an exemption shall have the right to seek judicial review in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.~~

(27) Assurance of qualified training personnel and adequate supervision on the job by a minimum number of journeypersons;

(28) Program standards that utilize the competency-based or hybrid approach for progression through an apprenticeship and that choose to issue interim credentials must clearly identify the interim credentials, demonstrate how these credentials link to the components of the apprenticeable occupation, and establish the process for assessing an individual apprentice's demonstration of competency associated with the particular interim credential. Further, interim credentials must only be issued for recognized components of an apprenticeable occupation, thereby linking interim credentials specifically to the knowledge, skills, and abilities associated with those components of the apprenticeable occupation;

(29) Recording and maintenance of all records concerning apprenticeship as may be required by the Office of Apprenticeship or the Department and other applicable law.

Section 6. Apprenticeship Agreement —

The apprenticeship agreement shall contain explicitly or by reference:

a. ~~Name and signature of the contracting parties (apprentice, and the program sponsor or employer", and the signature of a parent or guardian if the apprentice is a minor;~~

b. The date of birth of apprentice;

c. ~~Name and address of the program sponsor and registration agency;~~

d. ~~A statement of the trade or craft in which the apprentice is to be trained and the beginning date and term of apprenticeship;~~

e. A statement showing:

1. ~~The number of hours to be spent by the apprentice in work on the job; and~~

2. ~~The number of hours to be spent in related and supplemental instruction;~~

f. ~~A statement setting forth a schedule of the work processes in the trade in which the apprentice is to be trained and the approximate time to be spent at each process;~~

g. ~~A statement of the graduated scale of wages to be paid the apprentice and whether or not the required school time shall be compensated;~~

h. Statements providing:

1. ~~For a specific period of probation during which the apprenticeship agreement may be terminated by either party to the agreement upon notice to the Council; and~~

2. ~~That, after the probationary period, the agreement may be terminated at the request of the apprentice, or may be suspended, or terminated by the sponsor, for good cause, with due notice to the apprentice and a reasonable opportunity for corrective action, and with written notice to the apprentice and to the Council of the final action taken;~~

- ~~i. A statement that the apprentice will be accorded equal opportunity in all phases of apprenticeship employment and training, without discrimination because of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age, physical handicap, marital status, or court and arrest record; and~~
- ~~j. Name and address of the appropriate authority, if any, designated under the program to receive, process and make disposition of controversies or differences arising out of the apprenticeship agreement; any such controversies and differences which cannot be amicably settled by the parties may be submitted to the Council for final decision.~~

Section 6. Program Performance Standards -

- (a) Every registered apprenticeship program must have at least one registered apprentice, except for the following specified periods of time, which may not exceed 1 year:
 - (1) Between the date when a program is registered and the date of registration for its first apprentice(s); or
 - (2) Between the date that a program graduates an apprentice and the date of registration for the next apprentice(s) in the program.
- (b) In order to evaluate completion rates, the Registration Agency must review a program's completion rates in comparison to the national average for completion rates. Based on the review, the Registration Agency must provide technical assistance to programs with completion rates lower than the national average.
- (c) Cancellation of apprenticeship agreements during the probationary period will not have an adverse impact on a sponsor's completion rate.

Section 7. Deregistration of Council-Registered Program —

~~Deregistration of a program may be effected upon the voluntary action of the sponsor by a request for cancellation of the registration or, upon reasonable cause, by the Council, instituting formal deregistration proceedings in accordance with the provisions of this regulation.~~

- ~~a. REQUEST BY SPONSOR. The Council may cancel the registration of an apprenticeship program by a written acknowledgement of such request stating, but not limited to, the following:
 - ~~1. The registration is cancelled at sponsor's request, and giving the effective date of such cancellation; and~~~~

- ~~2. That, within 15 workdays of the date of the acknowledgement, the sponsor must notify all apprentices, of such cancellation and the effective date; that such cancellation automatically deprives the apprentice of his/her individual registration.~~

~~b. Deregistration by Council~~

- ~~1. Deregistration proceedings may be undertaken when the apprenticeship program is not conducted, operated, or administered in accordance with the registered standards or the requirements of Title 28, Chapter 45, or this regulation.~~
- ~~2. Where it appears the program is not being operated in accordance with the registered standards or with requirements of Title 28, Chapter 45, or this regulation, the Council shall so notify the program in writing.~~
- ~~3. The notice shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, shall state the deficiency(s) and remedy(s) required and shall state that the program will be deregistered for cause unless the corrective action is taken within 30 days.~~
- ~~4. Upon request by sponsor, the 30 day period may be extended for up to an additional 30 day period. During the period for correction the sponsor may be assisted in every reasonable way by the Council.~~
- ~~5. If the required action is not taken within the allotted time, the Council shall send a notice to the sponsor by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, stating the following:
 - ~~I. This notice is sent pursuant to this subsection;~~
 - ~~II. That certain deficiencies were called to the sponsor's attention and remedial actions requested;~~
 - ~~III. Based upon the stated cause, the program will be deregistered, unless within 15 workdays of receipt of this notice, the sponsor requests a hearing; and~~
 - ~~IV. If a hearing is not requested by the sponsor, the program will be automatically deregistered.~~~~
- ~~6. If the sponsor requests a hearing, the Council shall convene a hearing in accordance with Section 8 of these regulations.~~
- ~~7. In its discretion, the Council may allow the sponsor a reasonable time to achieve voluntary corrective action. If the Council's~~

~~decision is that the apprenticeship program is not operating in accordance with the registered standards or requirements of Title 28, Chapter 45, and this regulation, the apprenticeship program shall be deregistered. In each case in which deregistration is ordered, the Council shall notify the sponsor.~~

~~8. Every order of deregistration shall contain a provision that the sponsor shall, within 15 workdays of the effective date of the order, notify all registered apprentices of the deregistration of the program, the effective date, and that such action automatically deprives the apprentice of his/her individual registration.~~

Section 7. Apprenticeship Agreement -

The apprenticeship agreement shall contain explicitly or by reference:

- (a) Name and signature of the contracting parties (apprentice, and the program sponsor or employer, and the signature of a parent or guardian if the apprentice is a minor);
- (b) The date of birth of apprentice and, on a voluntary basis, the social security number;
- (c) Name and address of the program sponsor and registration agency;
- (d) A statement of the occupation, trade or craft in which the apprentice is to be trained and the beginning date and term of apprenticeship;
- (e) A statement showing:
 - (1) The number of hours to be spent by the apprentice in work on the job in a time-based program or a description of the skill sets to be attained by completion of a competency-based program, including the on-the-job learning component; or the minimum number of hours to be spent by the apprentice and a description of the skill sets to be attained by completion of a hybrid program.
 - (2) The number of hours to be spent in related and supplemental instruction in technical subjects related to the occupation which is recommended to be not less than one hundred forty-four (144) hours per year.
- (f) A statement setting forth a schedule of the work processes in the trade, craft or occupation in which the apprentice is to be trained and the approximate time to be spent at each process;

- (g) A statement of the graduated scale of wages to be paid the apprentice and whether or not the required school time related instruction shall be compensated;
- (h) Statements providing:
 - (1) For a specific period of probation during which the apprenticeship agreement may be terminated by either party to the agreement upon notice to the Department; and
 - (2) That, after the probationary period, the agreement may be:
 - (i) Cancelled at the request of the apprentice, or
 - (ii) Suspended or cancelled by the sponsor, for good cause, with due notice to the apprentice and a reasonable opportunity for corrective action, and with written notice to the apprentice and to the Department of the final action taken.
- (i) A statement that the apprentice will be accorded equal opportunity in all phases of apprenticeship employment and training, without discrimination because of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age, physical handicap, marital status, or court and arrest record; and
- (j) Name and address of the appropriate authority, if any, designated under the program to receive, process and make disposition of controversies or differences arising out of the apprenticeship agreement; any such controversies and differences which cannot be amicably settled by the parties may be submitted to the Department for final decision.

~~Section 8. Hearings-~~

- ~~a. Within 10 workdays of receipt of a request for a hearing, reasonable notice of such hearing shall be registered mail, return receipt requested, to the appropriate sponsor. Such notice shall include:~~
 - ~~1. A reasonable time and place of hearing;~~
 - ~~2. A statement of the provisions of this regulation pursuant to which the hearing is to be held; and~~
 - ~~3. A concise statement of the matters pursuant to which the action forming the basis of the hearing is proposed to be taken.~~

~~b. The Chairman of the Council shall regulate the course of the hearing. Hearings shall be informally conducted. Every party shall have the right to counsel, and a fair opportunity to present his/her case including such cross-examination as may be appropriate in the circumstances. The Council shall render final decisions based on their findings.~~

Section 8. Deregistration of Department Registered Program -

Deregistration of a program may be effected upon the voluntary action of the sponsor by a request for cancellation of the registration or, upon reasonable cause, by the Department, instituting formal deregistration proceedings in accordance with the provisions of this regulation.

(a) REQUEST BY SPONSOR. The Department may cancel the registration of an apprenticeship program by a written acknowledgement of such request stating, but not limited to, the following:

(1) The registration is cancelled at sponsor's request, and giving the effective date of such cancellation; and

(2) That, within 15 workdays of the date of the acknowledgement, the sponsor must notify all apprentices, of such cancellation and the effective date; that such cancellation automatically deprives the apprentice of his/her individual registration; and that the deregistration of the program removes the apprentice from coverage for federal purposes which require the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor's approval of an apprenticeship program; and that all apprentices are referred to the Department for information about potential transfer to other registered apprenticeship programs.

(b) Deregistration by Department:

(1) Deregistration proceedings may be undertaken when the apprenticeship program is not conducted, operated, or administered in accordance with the program's registered provisions or with the requirements of this part, including not but limited to: failure to provide on-the-job learning; failure to provide related instruction; failure to pay the apprentice a progressively increasing schedule of wages consistent with the apprentices skills acquired; or persistent and significant failure to perform successfully. Deregistration proceedings for violation of equal opportunity requirements must be processed in accordance with the provisions under 29 CFR 30.

(2) For purposes of this section, persistent and significant failure to perform successfully occurs when a program sponsor consistently fails to register at least one apprentice, shows a pattern of poor quality assessment results over a period of several years, demonstrates an ongoing pattern of very low completion rates over a period of several years, or shows no indication of improvement in the areas identified by the Department during a review process as requiring corrective action.

- (3) Where it appears the program is not being operated in accordance with the registered standards or with requirements of Title 28, Chapter 45, or this regulation, the Department shall so notify the program in writing.
- (4) The notice sent to the program sponsor's contact person must:

 - (i) Be sent by registered or certified mail, with return receipt requested;
 - (ii) State the shortcoming(s) and the remedy required; and
 - (iii) State that a determination of reasonable cause for deregistration will be made unless corrective action is effected within 30 days.
- (5) Upon request by sponsor, the 30 day period may be extended for up to an additional 30 day period. During the period for correction the sponsor may be assisted in every reasonable way by the Department.
- (6) If the required action is not taken within the allotted time, the Department shall send a notice to the sponsor by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, stating the following:

 - (i) This notice is sent pursuant to this subsection;
 - (ii) Certain deficiencies were called to the sponsor's attention (enumerating them and the remedial measures requested, with the dates of such occasions and letters), and that the sponsor has failed or refused to effect correction;
 - (iii) Based upon the stated deficiencies and failure to remedy them, a determination has been made that there is reasonable cause to deregister the program and the program may be deregistered unless, within 15 days of the receipt of this notice, the sponsor requests a hearing with the Department; and
 - (iv) If the sponsor does not request a hearing, the entire matter will be submitted to the Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship, for a decision on the record with respect to deregistration.
- (7) If the sponsor does not request a hearing, the Department will transmit to the Administrator a report containing all pertinent facts and circumstances concerning the nonconformity, including the findings and recommendation for deregistration, and copies of all relevant documents and records. Statements concerning interviews, meetings and conferences will include the time, date, place, and persons present. The Administrator will make a final order on the basis of the record presented.

- (8) If the sponsor requests a hearing, the Registration Agency will transmit to the Administrator a report containing all the data listed in paragraph (b)(6) of this section, and the Administrator will refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law Judges. An Administrative Law Judge will convene a hearing in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 29.10, and issue a decision as required in 29 C.F.R. § 29.10(c).
- (9) Every order of deregistration shall contain a provision that the sponsor shall, within 15 workdays of the effective date of the order, notify all registered apprentices of the deregistration of the program, the effective date, and that such action automatically deprives the apprentice of his/her individual registration; that the deregistration removes the apprentice from coverage for Federal purposes which require the Secretary of Labor's approval of an apprenticeship program, and that all apprentices are referred to the Department for information about potential transfer to other registered apprenticeship programs.

Section 9. Reinstatement of Program Registration —

~~Any apprenticeship program deregistered pursuant to Title 28, Chapter 45, and this regulation, may be reinstated upon presentation of adequate evidence that the apprenticeship program is operating in accordance with Title 28, Chapter 45, and this regulation. Such evidence shall be presented to the Council, if an order of deregistration were entered pursuant to a hearing.~~

Section 9. Deregistration Hearings -

- (a) Within 10 workdays of receipt of a request for a hearing, reasonable notice of such hearing, the Administrator of Apprenticeship must contact the Department of Labor's Office of Administrative Law Judges to request a designation of an Administrative Law Judge to preside over the hearing. The Judge shall give reasonable notice of such hearing by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the appropriate sponsor. Such notice shall include:
- (1) A reasonable time and place of hearing;
 - (2) A statement of the provisions of this regulation pursuant to which the hearing is to be held; and
 - (3) A concise statement of the matters pursuant to which the action forming the basis of the hearing is proposed to be taken.
- (b) The procedures contained in 29 CFR part 18 will apply to the disposition of the request for hearing except that:
- (1) The Administrative Law Judge will receive, and make part of the record, documentary evidence offered by any party and accepted at the hearing. Copies thereof will be made available by the party submitting the documentary evidence to any party to the hearing upon request.

- (2) Technical rules of evidence will not apply to hearings conducted pursuant to this part, but rules or principles designed to assure production of the most credible evidence available and to subject testimony to test by cross-examination will be applied, where reasonably necessary, by the Administrative Law Judge conducting the hearing. The Administrative Law Judge may exclude irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence.
- (c) The Administrative Law Judge should issue a written decision within 90 days of the close of the hearing record. The Administrative Law Judge's decision constitutes final agency action unless, within 15 days from receipt of the decision, a party dissatisfied with the decision files a petition for review with the Administrative Review Board, specifically identifying the procedure, fact, law or policy to which exception is taken. Any exception not specifically urged is deemed to have been waived. A copy of the petition for review must be sent to the opposing party at the same time. Thereafter, the decision of the Administrative Law Judge remains final agency action unless the Administrative Review Board, within 30 days of the filing of the petition for review, notifies the parties that it has accepted the case for review. The Administrative Review Board may set a briefing schedule or decide the matter on the record. The Administrative Review Board must decide any case it accepts for review within 180 days of the close of the record. If not so decided, the Administrative Law Judge's decision constitutes final agency action.

Section 10. Complaints —

- ~~(a) The section is not applicable to any complaint concerning discrimination or other equal opportunity matters; all such complaints shall be submitted, processed, and resolved in accordance with State or Federal Equal Opportunity laws.~~
- ~~(b) Any controversy or differences arising under an apprenticeship agreement which cannot be resolved locally, or which is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, may be submitted by an apprentice or his/her authorized representative to the Council for review. Matters covered by a collective bargaining agreement are not subject to such review.~~
- ~~(c) The complaint, in writing, and signed by the complainant, or authorized representative, shall be submitted within 60 days of the final local decision. It shall set forth the specific matter(s) complained of, together with all relevant facts and circumstances. Copies of all pertinent documents and correspondence shall accompany the complaint.~~
- ~~(d) The Council shall render an opinion within 90 days after receipt of the complaint, based upon such investigation of the matters submitted as may be found necessary, and the record before it. During the 90 day period, the Council shall make reasonable efforts to effect a satisfactory resolution between the parties involved. If so resolved, the parties shall be notified that the case is closed. Where a decision is rendered, copies of the decision shall be sent to all interested parties which shall be final.~~

Section 10. Reinstatement of Program Registration -

Any apprenticeship program deregistered pursuant to Title 28, Chapter 45, and this regulation, may be reinstated upon presentation of adequate evidence that the apprenticeship program is operating in accordance with Title 28, Chapter 45, and this regulation. Such evidence shall be presented to the Department, if an order of deregistration were entered pursuant to a hearing.

Section 11. Reciprocity —

~~Where there exists similar Standards between the Rhode Island Apprenticeship Council and other states and the Federal Government, reciprocity shall be exercised by the Rhode Island Council and recognition be given upon presentation of appropriate information.~~

Section 11. Complaints -

- (a) The section is not applicable to any complaint concerning discrimination or other equal opportunity matters; all such complaints shall be submitted, processed, and resolved in accordance with State or Federal Equal Opportunity laws.
- (b) Any controversy or differences arising under an apprenticeship agreement which cannot be resolved locally, or which is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, may be submitted by an apprentice or his/her authorized representative to the Department for review. Matters covered by a collective bargaining agreement are not subject to such review.
- (c) The complaint must be in writing, and signed by the complainant, or authorized representative, and shall be submitted within 60 days of the final local decision. It shall set forth the specific matter(s) complained of, together with all relevant facts and circumstances. Copies of all pertinent documents and correspondence shall accompany the complaint.
- (d) The Department shall render an opinion within 90 days after receipt of the complaint, based upon such investigation of the matters submitted as may be found necessary, and the record before it. During the 90 day period, the Department shall make reasonable efforts to effect a satisfactory resolution between the parties involved. If so resolved, the parties shall be notified that the case is closed. Where a decision is rendered, copies of the decision shall be sent to all interested parties which shall be final.
- (e) Nothing in this section precludes an apprentice from pursuing any other remedy authorized under another Federal, State, or local law.

Section 12. Reciprocity -

- (a) The Department shall accord reciprocal approval for Federal purposes to apprentices, apprenticeship programs and standards that are registered in other States by the Office of Apprenticeship or a Registration Agency if such reciprocity is requested by the apprenticeship program sponsor. Program sponsors seeking reciprocal approval must meet the wage and hour provisions and apprentice ratio standards of the reciprocal State.
- (b) Licensed journeypersons from other states shall not be permitted to register as apprentices in the same occupation, trade or craft.

Section 13. Limitations -

Nothing in this part or in any apprenticeship agreement will operate to invalidate:

- (a) Any apprenticeship provision in any collective bargaining agreement between employers and employees establishing higher apprenticeship standards; or
- (b) Any special provision for veterans, minority persons, or women in the standards, apprentice qualifications or operation of the program, or in the apprenticeship agreement, which is not otherwise prohibited by law, Executive Order, or authorized regulation

Section 14. Fees -

Apprenticeship programs shall comply with R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 28-45-9.1 and 28-45-13.1

Section 15. EEO Plan -

Apprenticeship programs shall comply with R.I. Gen. Laws § 28-45-14.

Copies of the aforementioned proposed amendments to the Rules are available for public inspection at the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training, Division of Professional Regulation, 70-2, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

In the development of the proposed amendments, consideration was given to:(1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small businesses as defined in Chapter 35 of Title 42 of the General Laws, which may result from the proposed amendments. Based on available information, no significant economic impact was identified nor are there any alternative approaches, duplications or overlaps with other state regulations.

Written comments regarding the proposed amendments are welcomed and will be accepted within twenty (20) days of the date of publication of this notice. Please address all comments or inquiries to Joseph Degnan, Assistant Director, Department of Labor and Training, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920.

In accordance with Rhode Island General Laws § 42-35-3, an oral hearing on these proposed amendments will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons or a governmental subdivision or agency, or by an association having not less than twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication of notice. If a hearing is properly requested, it shall be held on Friday, June 14, 2013 at 2:00 pm., in Bldg. 73-1, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
RI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS**

**Concise Summary of Proposed Non-technical Amendments
to
RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO LABOR STANDARDS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF APPRENTICESHIP
PROGRAMS UNDER
TITLE 28, CHAPTER 45 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS IN TRADE & INDUSTRY**

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 42-35-3(a)(1) of the General Laws of Rhode Island, the following is a concise summary of proposed non-technical amendments:

The regulations have been amended to conform with amendments to the Apprenticeship Programs in Trade and Industry Act, R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 28-45-1, *et. seq.* Furthermore, the proposed amendments have been approved by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship as part of the United States Department of Labor's federal recognition of state apprenticeship agency requirements. In summary, the proposed amended regulations make the following amendments in the following areas:

For apprentices and program sponsors, the regulations: incorporate technology-based learning and distance learning; provide additional pathways to certification by specifying that program sponsors may offer the traditional, time-based approach; competency-based approach; and the hybrid approach; include interim credentials; address program registration and the review process by establishing 90-day timeframes for the department to process sponsor requests for registering and modifying program standards and 45-day timeframes for sponsors to notify the department regarding other employment and apprenticeship agreement changes; and provide for provisional registration for newly registered programs to receive provisional approval for one year.

For the Department of Labor and Training, the regulations: increase linkages with the workforce investment system; redefine the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Labor and Training and the State Apprenticeship Council; and establish a process for continued recognition of the department by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship

For the U.S. Department of Labor, the regulations: enhance program accountability through technical assistance and require quality assurance assessments and Equal Employment Opportunity compliance reviews.

The amendments to these regulations also contain edits to grammar and form.