



ABC SUPPORTS HOUSE BILL 559

Bill Summary

House Bill 559 amends the Apprenticeship and Training Act of 1961 to abrogate a subsequent regulation which allows joint apprenticeship programs to utilize a ratio of one supervisory journeyman for every apprentice while requiring open shop programs to employ a ratio of four journeymen for every apprentice.

ABC Position

ABC supports House Bill 559 for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in support of the legislation.

- **Levels the playing field for career and technical education.** Current regulations that were promulgated following the Apprenticeship and Training Act allow joint apprenticeship programs, which provide on-the-job training for signatory employees in construction, manufacturing, and a whole host of industries to utilize a supervisory ratio of 1:1, or one experienced journeyman for every apprentice. HB 559 would simply provide the same allowance for non-joint, or open shop programs.
- **Drastically improves workforce development efforts.** While apprenticeship programs often are implemented by third-party educational providers, employers themselves can develop and maintain apprenticeship programs to train new skilled employees. By requiring open shop educators and employers to quadruple the resources they must devote to training new employees, current regulations fatally hamper workforce development efforts and stifle much-needed growth in the skilled trades. HB 559 would allow a 1:1 ratio, which is already in use by many signatory employers, to be used across the board by approved apprenticeship programs. In turn, this would allow employers to train and develop a new generation of skilled trade employees.