

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Senate Committee On Workforce****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/15/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.  
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 03/11, 03/23, 04/15**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum, Thatcher

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Task Force on 21st Century Apprenticeship with 14 members appointed by Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives according to certain criteria. Requires Task Force to study, evaluate, and make recommendations on matters relating to apprenticeships. Directs Task Force to report to the Legislative Assembly by December 30, 2016. Sunsets Task Force on December 31, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Prior task force on apprenticeship
- Need for investment in career and technical education
- Diversity of Task Force membership
- Transferability of students' technical skills

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Adds two community college apprenticeship program employees, including at least one faculty member. Requires that two non-legislative members work or reside in rural areas of the state. Modifies goals of the Task Force.

**BACKGROUND:**

Apprenticeships are occupational career training programs that combine supervised on-the-job training experience with classroom instruction. Apprentices usually begin at half the salary of certified "journey" workers. Apprenticeship committees, made up of employee and employer representatives, operate apprenticeship programs. The waiting period for acceptance into an apprenticeship program may last up to two years and is a highly competitive process. If a candidate is qualified, the candidate is added to a pool of eligible applicants. As apprenticeship vacancies become available, candidates are selected from the pool. Typically, apprenticeships last two to five years, depending on the specific industry requirements.

Senate Bill 598-A creates a Task Force comprised of legislators, contractors, labor representatives, agency representatives, and others to evaluate and recommend apprenticeship policies to the Legislative Assembly.