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Governor Brown Signs Bill to Expand State Apprenticeship Programs

Assembly Bill 235 will provide workforce training and job opportunities throughout the state.

(SACRAMENTO) – Governor Jerry Brown has signed Assembly Bill 235 by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D – Long Beach), which establishes a pathway for approving new state apprenticeship programs and establishes preapprenticeship programs.

“AB 235 will greatly expand apprenticeship programs throughout the state and in all industries. State apprenticeship programs lead to well-paying permanent jobs and provide businesses with a skilled workforce,” said Assemblymember O'Donnell. “This bill will result in new job opportunities and meet industry needs. I thank the Governor and the State Building and Construction Trades Council for working with me on this very important bill.”

"We thank Governor Brown and Assemblymember O'Donnell for their leadership in promoting the apprenticeship model to other industries," said Robbie Hunter, President, State Building and Construction Trades Council. "We are proud of the quality and success of our union apprenticeship programs and believe this model to train workers will create opportunities for Californians to enter rewarding careers in high growth sectors."

State apprenticeship programs combine classroom education with on-the-job training. Participants receive a salary while learning a trade, leading to permanent, good paying jobs. AB 235 establishes a two-pronged process for the approval of apprenticeship programs by maintaining the current approval process for the building and construction trades and firefighting, and establishing a separate path for approval of programs in all other industries. The bill also establishes an approval process for preapprenticeship programs, which are short-term programs to help participants prepare and meet eligibility for state apprenticeship programs.

The bill takes effect immediately.

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Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell represents the 70th Assembly District, which includes Long Beach, Signal Hill, San Pedro and Catalina Island.