

CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
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CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL 2026
FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Chairperson Yvonne de la Peña

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - a. Chairperson Yvonne de la Peña called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
 - b. DAS Chief Adele Burnes conducted the roll call.
 - i. Members Present: Yvonne de la Peña, Chuck Poss, Mark Buri, Larry Hopkins, Jason Rafter, Earl Restine (remote), Hugo de la Torre (remote), Gary Adams.
 - ii. Members Absent: Shelly Doran
- II. Review/Approve Previous Minutes
 - a. All members present approved the Previous Minutes for the meeting held on August 13, 2025, in San Diego, California.
- III. Budget Update – Yvonne De la Pena
 - a. Governor’s Proposed Budget (2026–27)
 - i. Emphasis on education funding through Prop 98.
 - ii. Funding remains at Test 1 level (~40% of General Fund + property taxes).
 - iii. \$21 billion increase in education funding over 3 years.
 - b. Key Highlights for Apprenticeship
 - i. \$13.4 million (one-time) to backfill apprenticeship funding shortfalls (2024–2026). First time funding included proactively in governor’s budget.

- ii. Apprenticeship hourly rate proposed: \$10.57 (COLA-adjusted). Continued annual COLA increases (significant improvement over past stagnation)
- c. Additional Funding
 - i. \$30 million for CAI grants.
 - ii. \$18 million for apprenticeship training grant augmentation.
 - iii. \$2 million for Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) initiatives.
- d. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)
 - i. Allows apprentices to receive college credit for work/training.
 - ii. Strong support from Chancellor's Office.
 - iii. California positioned as a national leader.
 - iv. Suggested future presentation to committee/community.
- e. Budget Bills: AB 1563 and SB 879.

IV. Review of New Bills

- a. AB 889 (Prevailing Wage Fringe Benefits): Signed
- b. SB 369 (Restoration Projects): Vetoed
- c. SB 638 (CTE Incentive Grant Reform): Signed
- d. SB 241 (Instructor Qualifications): Signed
- e. SB 75 (Pre Apprenticeship Pathways to Employment): Vetoed
- f. SB 711(Taxation-federal conformity): Approved
- g. Several other bills failed deadlines and may return in future sessions.
- h. The Commissioners discussed what qualifications that an instructor needs to have to teach apprentices.
- i. AB 1534(Workforce Pell Grant Program)-Chief Adele Burnes brought up because it will be discussed in future meetings.

V. Public Comment

- a. Shane raised a clarification request about AB 889, specifically how funds would be distributed and how responsibilities would be divided between the CAC and training centers. These issues will be researched further and revisited at a future meeting.
- b. Meg Vasey brought out that women in construction will be receiving funding and asked if AB 805 will be receiving any funding to support it. Chief Adele Burnes said that it is still being researched.

VI. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:37am.