

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF AMENDED BILL

Author: Cervantes Analyst: Jessica Deitchman Bill Number: AB 361
Related Bills: See Prior Telephone: 845-6310 Amended Date May 15, 2017
Analysis Attorney: Bruce Langston Sponsor: _____

SUBJECT: Apprentice Training Credit

SUMMARY

This bill would, under the Personal Income Tax Law, and the Corporation Tax law, allow a tax credit to a taxpayer that employs a registered apprentice.

RECOMMENDATION – NO POSITION**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS**

The May 15, 2017, amendments modified the operative date, added a repeal date, and made a technical change. As a result of the amendments, one of the policy concerns and one of the technical considerations in the department's analysis of the bill as amended March 27, 2016, have been resolved. Except for the "Effective/Operative Date," "This Bill," "Technical Considerations," "Economic Impact," and "Policy Concerns," the remainder of that analysis still applies. The "Fiscal Impact" section has been restated below for convenience.

This analysis only addresses the provisions of the bill that impact the department's programs and operations.

EFFECTIVE/OPERATIVE DATE

As a tax levy, this bill would be effective immediately upon enactment and specifically operative for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, and before January 1, 2023.

THIS BILL

This bill would, for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2018, and before January 1, 2023, allow a taxpayer a credit in an amount equal to \$1,000 for each individual who was employed by the taxpayer as a registered apprentice in this state for seven months or more during the taxable year, not to exceed \$10,000 per taxable year per taxpayer.

The bill would define a “registered apprentice” as an individual who is trained by the taxpayer through an apprenticeship program that meets all of the following requirements:

- The apprenticeship program is approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards.¹
- The program is provided pursuant to an apprenticeship agreement.²
- The minimum term for the program is 2,000 hours.

The credit would only be allowed for the taxable year if the taxpayer obtains a copy of an apprentice certificate from the Division of Apprenticeship Standards in the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). A certificate would be required for each taxable year and the taxpayer would be required to provide a copy of the certificate to the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) upon request.

The bill specifies that this credit must be claimed on a timely filed original return.

The credit may be carried over for up to 1 year.

The Division of Apprenticeship Standards would be permitted to adopt rules and regulations as reasonably necessary to fulfill its obligations under this section, but would be required to consult with the FTB.

The FTB may adopt any regulations necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this section.

Section 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code would not apply to any standard, criterion, procedure, determination, rule, notice, or guideline established or issued by the FTB.

Any deduction otherwise allowed for the wages or salaries paid or incurred by the taxpayer upon which the credit is based shall be reduced by the amount of the credit.

This credit would remain in effect until December 1, 2023, and would be repealed by its own terms on that date.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Because the credit amount is unconnected to the wages paid to a registered apprentice, the provision limiting the deduction for wages paid or incurred by the taxpayer would have no effect and could be deleted.

¹ Pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 3070) of Division 3 of the Labor Code.

² As described in Section 3077 of the Labor Code.

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill would require some changes to the existing tax forms and instructions, and information systems. As the bill continues to move through the legislative process, costs will be identified and an appropriation will be requested, if necessary.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Revenue Estimate

This bill would result in the following revenue loss:

Estimated Revenue Impact of AB 361 As Amended May 15, 2017 Assumed Enactment After June 30, 2017 (\$ in Millions)		
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
- \$0.8	- \$2.3	- \$2.9

This analysis does not account for changes in employment, personal income, or gross state product that could result from this bill.

Revenue Discussion

Based on data from the DIR, the number of active apprentices totaled 74,000 as of April 1, 2017. Based on historic apprentice growth this is increased by 4 percent, or to 77,000 for the 2018 taxable year. Based on DIR apprentice registration data, it is estimated that 84 percent of registered apprentices would be employed at least seven months during the taxable year resulting in a pool of 65,000 apprentices.

This credit is anticipated to increase the number of registered apprentices by 20 percent because of the incentive to hire qualified apprentices to take advantage of the credit. The population was reduced by 96 percent to limit the credit to \$10,000 per taxable year per taxpayer, or a maximum of 10 qualified apprentices for each employer.

The estimated number of qualified apprentices is multiplied by the \$1,000 credit amount resulting in total estimated credit generated of approximately \$3.1 million in 2018. Due to the short implementation period, the first year of credit generation is reduced by 10 percent. It is further assumed that 30 percent of the credit would be used by personal income taxpayers and 70 by corporate taxpayers. Approximately 75 percent of the credit would be used in the year generated and 10 percent in the following year.

The tax year estimates are converted to fiscal year estimates, and then rounded to arrive at the estimates shown in the above table.

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION³

Support: None provided.

Opposition: California Tax Reform Association.

POLICY CONCERNS

The bill allows a one year carryover period. As a result, any unused credit would be lost if the taxpayer is unable to use the entire credit amount in the year after the credit was claimed. The author may wish to extend the one year carryover period.

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³ As provided in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee Analysis dated May 5, 2017.