



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 2, 2019

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Governor Newsom Signs State Council Sponsored Apprenticeship Bill into Law

SACRAMENTO – The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) commends Governor Newsom for signing AB 1019 into law. AB 1019 was authored by Assemblymember Jim Frazier and sponsored by SCDD. This bill amends the California Labor Code to expand membership of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards' Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (IACA) to include the Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation and the Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

"We are excited to welcome the Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation and the Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities as ex officio members of the IACA. Their addition to the IACA will be an invaluable resource for us as we continue to expand State Registered Apprenticeship opportunities in California," stated Eric Rood, Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS).

AB 1019 also requires the creation of a subcommittee to address apprenticeships for people with disabilities. The IACA was created in 2018 by AB 235 with the goal of fostering, promoting, and developing opportunities for competitive employment through apprenticeships.

"Apprenticeships are not only crucial to the success of our economy, but also provide an important career pathway and opportunity toward competitive integrated employment for workers with and without disabilities. The Department of Rehabilitation looks forward to working with all stakeholders to jointly build and advance a strong and inclusive workforce in California," stated Joe Xavier, Director of the Department of Rehabilitation.

"Apprenticeships provide an important avenue to opening competitive employment opportunities to people with disabilities. The Council looks forward to joining the IACA and working together to create new opportunities by formally connecting these pathways to employment," stated Maria Marquez, SCDD Interim Chair. "The State Council is grateful for the leadership of Governor Newsom and Assemblymember Frazier."

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Close to 50 years ago, Congress established the State Councils in every state and territory. The Councils are authorized in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families design and can access services and supports that "promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion" in community life. The Lanterman Act establishes the SCDD in California to be comprised of 31 members appointed by the Governor, including individuals with disabilities, their families, other partners and state agencies. The SCDD develops a five-year state plan to implement the DD Act through the work of 12 regional offices in California. The plan is developed with stakeholder input and is focused on addressing systemic barriers to employment, housing, education, community supports, health, and safety for persons with developmental disabilities.