

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1324

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 1, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE,  
BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-137, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH AN  
IDAHO PROMISE MENTOR PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 1, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-137, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-137. IDAHO PROMISE MENTOR PROGRAM. (1) There is hereby created a statewide volunteer mentor program as provided for in this section to be known as the Idaho promise mentor program. The program shall be administered by the state board of education.

(2) The purpose of the mentor program is to fill vacant, skilled, good-paying jobs by:

(a) Creating a transparent pathway that overcomes barriers to career-ready programs and career-ready credentials for Idaho high school students, recent high school graduates, veterans, and other adults;

(b) Increasing the number of Idahoans earning career-ready credentials; and

(c) Increasing the competitiveness of Idaho's workforce to the point that the needs of Idaho's economy, employers, and workers are met.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Career-ready credential" means a job training certificate or an associate or associate of applied science degree;

(b) "Career-ready program" means job training or workplace development programs offered by regionally accredited postsecondary institutions located in Idaho that award career-ready credentials upon successful completion of such programs lasting for a presumed period of no more than two (2) years, or federally registered apprenticeship programs located in Idaho;

(c) "Idaho resident" means a person meeting the criteria for Idaho residency in accordance with the provisions of section 33-3717B, Idaho Code;

(d) "Mentee" means an Idaho resident who is an Idaho high school student, recent Idaho high school graduate, veteran, or other adult who has a mentor through the Idaho promise mentor program;

(e) "Mentor" and "mentoring" mean to inform, advise, and assist mentees;

(f) "Mentor coordinator" means a person supervising volunteer mentors for remuneration;

(g) "Mentor program" means the Idaho promise mentor program established by this section; and

- 1 (h) "Volunteer mentor" means a person advising and assisting mentees  
2 without remuneration.
- 3 (4) The state board of education is authorized to establish such poli-  
4 cies, promulgate such rules, and take such other actions as are necessary on  
5 behalf of the mentor program to further the provisions of this section.
- 6 (5) The mentor program shall:
- 7 (a) Collaborate with the workforce development council, the division  
8 of career technical education, regionally accredited postsecondary in-  
9 stitutions offering career-ready programs in Idaho, organizations of-  
10 fering federally registered apprenticeship programs in Idaho, Idaho's  
11 public schools, nonprofit organizations, and such other persons and en-  
12 tities as appropriate; and
- 13 (b) Be implemented in such phases as appropriate, with full implementa-  
14 tion taking effect no later than July 1, 2021.
- 15 (6) The objectives of the mentoring program shall be to:
- 16 (a) Raise the awareness of mentees and families with respect to:
- 17 (i) Resources available through the next steps Idaho website;  
18 (ii) Available career-ready program options in Idaho;  
19 (iii) Cost of completing career-ready programs in Idaho;  
20 (iv) Public and private financial assistance available for com-  
21 pleting career-ready programs, including federal financial aid  
22 and scholarships;  
23 (v) Availability of no-cost online textbooks for general educa-  
24 tion courses;  
25 (vi) Career-ready program application processes;  
26 (vii) Maintaining career-ready program progress sufficient to  
27 earn a career-ready credential; and  
28 (viii) Securing skilled employment in the mentee's desired field;  
29 and
- 30 (b) Increase the relevance of:
- 31 (i) High school learning plans to post-high school decisions;  
32 (ii) Career exploration activities including job fairs, job shad-  
33 ows, internships, work-based experiences, and other career-re-  
34 lated learning experiences; and  
35 (iii) Business and community relationships with mentees in sup-  
36 port of career-ready credential completion.
- 37 (7) The program shall collect data for the purpose of:
- 38 (a) Program evaluation;  
39 (b) Return on investment analysis; and  
40 (c) Determination of:
- 41 (i) Unmet financial and other needs of mentees as they relate to  
42 enrolling in and completing career-ready programs, including but  
43 not limited to free application for federal student aid (FAFSA)  
44 completion rates and Pell grants and scholarships awarded;  
45 (ii) Career-ready program enrollment, career-ready credentials  
46 earned, and resulting job placements, including but not limited to  
47 the nature, location, and compensation of the jobs filled, by in-  
48 stitution, by career-ready program, and in the aggregate on such  
49 academic, fiscal year, and other bases as feasible;

1 (iii) Eventual postsecondary program completion rates of those  
2 mentees who do not complete their initial career-ready program in  
3 such manner and to such degree as is feasible; and

4 (iv) Other data as will further the provisions of this section.

5 (8) On or before the first day of each regular legislative session, the  
6 mentor program will provide a written report on its status and progress, in-  
7 cluding the data provided for in subsection (7) of this section and recommen-  
8 dations, to:

9 (a) The education committees of the senate and house of representa-  
10 tives;

11 (b) The commerce and human resources committees of the senate and house  
12 of representatives;

13 (c) The business committee of the house of representatives;

14 (d) The joint finance-appropriations committee; and

15 (e) The governor.

16 (9) Volunteer mentors shall be supervised and assisted by mentor coor-  
17 dinators in each educational region of the state.

18 (10) To achieve the purposes and objectives set forth in this section,  
19 and as relevant and appropriate to the mentee's circumstances, mentoring  
20 services shall:

21 (a) Begin in high school, bridge the summer gap between the completion  
22 of high school and the beginning of career-ready programs, continue un-  
23 til the mentee has successfully established a connection with institu-  
24 tional and statewide-based supportive services and may continue there-  
25 after at a level consistent with and appropriate to the purposes and ob-  
26 jectives of the mentor program; and

27 (b) Provide mentees and their families information, advice, and assis-  
28 tance with respect to the mentee's enrollment in and completion of a ca-  
29 reer-ready program.

30 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
31 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its  
32 passage and approval.