

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1109

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 1, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE,
2 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-138, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH AN
3 IDAHO PROMISE MENTOR PROGRAM.
4

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

6 SECTION 1. That Chapter 1, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
7 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
8 ignated as Section 33-138, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

9 33-138. IDAHO PROMISE MENTOR PROGRAM. (1) There is hereby authorized
10 and created a statewide volunteer mentor program as provided for in this sec-
11 tion to be known as the Idaho promise mentor program. The program will be ad-
12 ministered by the state board of education.

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

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

18 (b) Increasing the number of Idahoans earning career-ready creden-
19 tials; and

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

22 (3) As used in this section:

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

25 (b) "Career-ready program" means job training or workplace development
26 programs offered by regionally accredited postsecondary institutions
27 located in Idaho that award career-ready credentials upon successful
28 completion of such programs lasting for a presumed period of no more
29 than two (2) years or apprenticeship programs that are located in Idaho
30 and either registered with the United States department of labor office
31 of apprenticeship or recognized by a United States department of labor
32 standards recognition entity and an Idaho licensing authority.

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

36 (d) "Mentee" means an Idaho resident who is an Idaho high school stu-
37 dent, recent Idaho high school graduate, veteran, or other adult who has
38 a mentor through the Idaho promise mentor program.

39 (e) "Mentor" or "mentoring" means to inform, advise, and assist
40 mentees.

41 (f) "Mentor coordinator" means a person supervising volunteer mentors.

1 (g) "Mentor program" means the Idaho promise mentor program estab-
2 lished by this section.

3 (h) "Volunteer mentor" means a person advising and assisting mentees
4 without remuneration.

5 (4) The state board of education is authorized to establish such poli-
6 cies, promulgate such rules, and take such other actions as are necessary
7 on behalf of the mentor program to further the provisions of this section,
8 including but not limited to accepting grants, gifts, appropriations, and
9 other moneys to support the mentor program.

10 (5) The mentor program will coordinate with the workforce development
11 council, the division of career technical education, regionally accredited
12 postsecondary institutions offering career-ready programs in Idaho, orga-
13 nizations offering apprenticeship programs described in subsection (3) (b)
14 of this section, Idaho's public schools, nonprofit organizations, and such
15 other persons and entities as appropriate.

16 (6) The objectives of the mentoring program are to:

17 (a) Raise the awareness of mentees and families with respect to:

18 (i) Resources available through the next steps Idaho website;

19 (ii) Available career-ready program options in Idaho;

20 (iii) Cost of completing career-ready programs in Idaho;

21 (iv) Public and private financial assistance available for com-
22 pleting career-ready programs, including federal financial aid
23 and scholarships;

24 (v) Availability of no-cost online textbooks;

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 in guiding students' post-high
32 school decisions;

33 (ii) Career exploration activities including job fairs, job shad-
34 ows, internships, work-based experiences, and other career-re-
35 lated learning experiences; and

36 (iii) Business and community relationships with mentees in sup-
37 port of career-ready credential completion.

38 (7) The program will utilize available data for the purpose of program
39 evaluation and identifying the unmet financial needs of mentees.

40 (8) On or before the first day of each regular legislative session, the
41 mentor program must provide a written report on its status and progress, in-
42 cluding the data provided for in subsection (7) of this section and recommen-
43 dations, to the governor and the education committees of the senate and house
44 of representatives.

45 (9) Volunteer mentors will be supervised and assisted by mentor coordi-
46 nators in each educational region of the state.

47 (10) To achieve the purposes and objectives set forth in this section,
48 and as relevant and appropriate to the mentee's circumstances, mentoring
49 services will:

1 (a) Begin in high school, bridge the summer gap between the completion
2 of high school and the beginning of career-ready programs, continue un-
3 til the mentee has successfully established a connection with institu-
4 tional and supportive wraparound services and may continue thereafter
5 at a level consistent with and appropriate to the purposes and objec-
6 tives of the mentor program; and

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

10 (11) There is hereby established in the state treasury the Idaho promise
11 mentor program account, to which will be credited all moneys both public and
12 private that may be appropriated, allocated, donated, distributed, or oth-
13 erwise designated to the Idaho promise mentor program. The executive direc-
14 tor of the office of the state board of education may receive on behalf of the
15 state board of education any moneys donated, bequeathed, devised, or con-
16 ditionally granted to the state board of education for purposes of funding
17 such account. All idle moneys in the account will be invested by the state
18 treasurer in the manner provided for in section 67-1210, Idaho Code, with re-
19 spect to other surplus or idle moneys in the state treasury, with the inter-
20 est earned on investments being returned to the account. Moneys in the ac-
21 count will be used exclusively and will be continuously appropriated for the
22 purposes of the Idaho promise mentor program as provided in this section.