



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO

**2013 Wisconsin Act 57**  
[Senate Bill 335]

**Apprenticeship Completion  
Award Program**

2013 Wisconsin Act 57 creates an apprenticeship completion award program. The Act provides \$225,000 general purpose revenue (GPR) in fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15 to fund awards issued under the program.

**Tuition Reimbursement**

Under the Act, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) must partially reimburse the tuition costs paid by apprentices who have successfully completed part or all of their apprenticeship requirements and are employed in the trade, occupation, or business in which they are being trained under the apprenticeship program. The Act also provides that a sponsor of a qualifying apprentice, not limited to the employer of an apprentice, is eligible for partial tuition reimbursement for the amount paid by the sponsor. However, a state agency or local governmental unit may not receive an apprenticeship completion award.

Under the program, if DWD determines that an apprentice or sponsor is eligible for an apprenticeship completion award, the department must provide a completion award for 25% of the tuition costs incurred by the apprentice or sponsor, but the award may not exceed \$1,000. Furthermore, the total amount of the completion award is capped at 25% of the tuition costs incurred by the apprentice and the sponsor or \$1,000, whichever is less. The Act permits the department to pay the award in two parts. The first payment may be made upon the successful completion of the first year of an apprenticeship contract, but the amount of the first payment may not exceed \$250. The remainder of the award is paid upon the final completion of all apprenticeship requirements.

**Reimbursement if Requests Exceed Available Funding**

The Act also provides that if the amount of funds to be distributed under the program exceeds the amount of funds available under the Act's appropriation, DWD may reduce the reimbursement percentage or deny applications for the completion awards that would otherwise qualify. In that case,

---

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

DWD must determine the reimbursement percentage and eligibility on the basis of the dates on which apprentices and sponsors become eligible for completion awards.

**Delinquent Support Obligors**

The Act also places certain limitations on individuals seeking a completion award who are delinquent in child support maintenance payments or who owe past support, medical expenses, or birth expenses, if the person's name is on the statewide support lien docket. In these cases, DWD may only provide a completion award if the person provides the department with one of the following:

- A repayment agreement that the person has entered into, that has been accepted by the county child support agency and that has been kept current for the six-month period immediately preceding the date of the application for an award.
- A statement that the person is not delinquent in child support or maintenance payments and does not owe past support, medical expenses, or birth expenses, signed by a representative or designee of the Department of Children and Families within seven working days before the date of the application for a completion award.

**Administrative Rules**

Under the Act, DWD must promulgate rules to administer the apprenticeship completion award program.

***Effective date and initial applicability:*** The Act took effect on November 16, 2013. The Act first applies to an apprentice who successfully completes part or all of the requirements of his or her apprenticeship program on the first day of the third month after DWD promulgates rules to administer the apprenticeship completion award program.

***Prepared by:*** Michael Queensland, Staff Attorney

November 19, 2013

MQ:jb;ksm

# State of Wisconsin



2013 Senate Bill 335

Date of enactment: **November 14, 2013**  
Date of publication\*: **November 15, 2013**

## 2013 WISCONSIN ACT 57

AN ACT *to create* 20.445 (1) (d) and 106.05 of the statutes; **relating to:** an apprenticeship completion award program, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

		2013-14	2014-15
<b>20.445</b>	<b>Workforce development, department of</b>		
(1)	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		
(d)	Apprenticeship completion award program		
	GPR	A	
		225,000	225,000

**SECTION 2.** 20.445 (1) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

20.445 (1) (d) *Apprenticeship completion award program.* The amounts in the schedule for the apprenticeship completion award program under s. 106.05 (2).

**SECTION 3.** 106.05 of the statutes is created to read:

**106.05 Apprenticeship completion award program.** (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) "Sponsor" does not include a state agency or local governmental unit.

(b) "Tuition costs" means any fee that is charged for an apprentice to participate in related instruction under s. 106.01 (6).

(2) **APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION AWARDS.** (a) The department shall administer an apprenticeship completion award program as provided in this section to partially reimburse tuition costs incurred by any of the following:

1. An apprentice who has successfully completed part or all of the requirements of his or her apprenticeship program as provided in par. (b) 1. and 2. and who is employed in the trade, occupation, or business in which he or she is being trained under the apprenticeship program.

2. The sponsor of an apprentice described in subd. 1. (b) Subject to par. (c) and sub. (3), from the appropriation under s. 20.445 (1) (d), the department shall provide to an apprentice described in par. (a) 1. or the apprentice's sponsor a completion award equal to 25 percent of the cost of tuition incurred by the apprentice or sponsor or \$1,000, whichever is less, as follows:

1. The department shall make the first payment of a completion award upon the successful completion of the first year of the apprentice's apprenticeship contract. The amount of the first payment may not exceed \$250.

\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

2. The department shall pay the remainder of a completion award upon the successful completion of all requirements of the apprentice's apprenticeship program.

(c) The total amount of a completion award that the department may pay to an apprentice and his or her sponsor may not exceed 25 percent of the cost of tuition incurred by the apprentice and sponsor or \$1,000, whichever is less.

(3) LIMITATIONS ON AWARDS. (a) If the amount of funds to be distributed under sub. (2) exceeds the amount available under s. 20.445 (1) (d), the department may reduce the reimbursement percentage or deny applications for completion awards that would otherwise qualify under sub. (2). In that case, the department shall determine the reimbursement percentage and eligibility on the basis of the dates on which apprentices and sponsors become eligible for completion awards.

(b) The department may provide a completion award under sub. (2) to a person who is delinquent in child support or maintenance payments or who owes past support, medical expenses, or birth expenses, as established by appearance of the person's name on the statewide support

lien docket under s. 49.854 (2) (b), only if the person provides the department with one of the following:

1. A repayment agreement that the person has entered into, that has been accepted by the county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5), and that has been kept current for the 6-month period immediately preceding the date of the application for a completion award.

2. A statement that the person is not delinquent in child support or maintenance payments and does not owe past support, medical expenses, or birth expenses, signed by a representative or designee of the department of children and families within 7 working days before the date of the application for a completion award.

(4) RULES. The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

**SECTION 4m. Initial applicability.**

(1) APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION AWARD PROGRAM. This act first applies to an apprentice who successfully completes part or all of the requirements of his or her apprenticeship program as provided in section 106.05 (2) (b) 1. or 2. of the statutes, as created by this act, on the first day of the 3rd month beginning after the rules promulgated under section 106.05 (4) of the statutes, as created by this act, take effect.

---