

## **Apprenticeship Programs to Receive Greater Emphasis under WIOA**

On July 22, 2014, President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law, reauthorizing and reforming the nation's federal workforce programs. Slated to go into effect on July 1, 2015, the act will bring changes to many aspects of the nation and states' workforce development systems. One area of interest to veterans looking for training and employment is the WIOA's greater emphasis on apprenticeships, in which a combination of instruction and work-based learning with an employer lead to a nationally recognized certification from the U.S. Department of Labor.

This increased emphasis on apprenticeships is reflected in several different provisions of the law, including integrating apprenticeships into workforce planning and policy by making apprenticeship program representatives members of local and state boards and integrating apprenticeship programs into local, regional, and state workforce development plans. The new law also makes it easier for employers to register apprenticeship positions and it raises employer reimbursement rates for on-the-job training and customized training, making it more enticing for employers to use the program. Finally, the law emphasizes a set of performance measures that will count employment outcomes, credential attainment, and skills gains from apprenticeship programs, making it easier for these programs to be utilized and measured.

What do all these changes mean to veterans? Veterans receive preference for apprenticeship openings and can continue to draw benefits from the GI Bill even though they are employed as part of an apprenticeship. In addition, many of their military skills and credentials can transfer to the apprenticeship, allowing them to receive credit for what they have already accomplished while on active duty.

Don't wait for these changes to go into effect in July 2015. You can find information on apprenticeship opportunities in North Carolina today through your local Career Center and at [NCWorks Online](#).



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