

House Bill 235 Concerns

HB 235 Bill Summary

- Requires 80% of workers hired for maintenance and construction contracts at petroleum refineries to be enrolled in or graduated from a registered apprenticeship program.
 - OCTC does not support this approach since it does not focus on safety standards, instead focusing on hiring quotas of apprenticeship workers.
- Requires all workers to take an OSHA 30-hour training course.
 - OCTC has no concerns with this, since OSHA-30 is an industry-recognized safety training program.

OCTC Position

OCTC strongly opposes House Bill 235, which is both dangerous and misguided public policy. OCTC takes every conversation about workplace safety very seriously. Our members create a culture of safety at our facilities, and we pride ourselves in a strong safety performance. [Safety data presented by API Ohio in their testimony](#) on HB 235 bears out the tremendous results of Ohio refineries on this front.

HB 235 is claiming to implement safety standards at refineries, but it actually requires our member companies to hire apprenticeship workers over other, sometimes more qualified workers. While apprenticeship is a good method for obtaining valuable skills and safety training, an apprenticeship worker may not have the relevant experience necessary to be qualified to safely work in industrial settings, like petroleum refining.

Bill proponents are arguing that the bill promotes safety, however the bulk of the bill is aimed at enacting government mandated hiring quotas that unfairly benefit certain contractors.

- According to State of Ohio data (see table below), 76% of qualifying apprenticeship workers are enrolled in union affiliated apprenticeship programs.
- In practice, the hiring quotas in HB 235 will unfairly benefit union-affiliated contractors, regardless of their workers' skills, safety training, and relevant refinery experience.

AS OF 2/3/2022, the following data for Ohio Registered Apprentices:



TOTAL ALL ACTIVE APPRENTICES	19424	
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	12932	<i>66.6% of all apprentices</i>
TOTAL JATC (UNION)	9787	<i>76% of total construction</i>
TOTAL NON-UNION (*ABC included)	3145	<i>24.3% of total construction*</i>

HB 235 proponents are also asserting that the out-of-state contractors are using illegal, undocumented workers on these sites.

- All refineries are regulated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and all workers go through extensive background checks that are filed on a weekly basis with and verified by DHS for both legal status and potential terrorism connections.

Proponents are also asserting that out-of-state workers are taking jobs away from Ohio workers.

- Turnaround projects require a workforce of 2,000-5,000 highly skilled workers to complete. The work takes about 4-6 weeks on average and only occurs every 3-5 years.
 - Every turnaround project has to rely on a large number of out of state workers because a workforce of this size and qualification does not exist in a single location anywhere in the country.

HB 235 will make Ohio refineries less safe as arbitrary hiring quotas prohibit our companies from hiring the safest, most qualified workers for these jobs. Please oppose this legislation in its current form.

About OCTC

Industry: Chemical Manufacturing

Footprint: 629 Facilities

Jobs: 39,155 Employees

Avg. Wage: \$85,921 per year

Annual Sales: \$5.6 billion

Overview: Ohio is the third largest chemistry producing state in the country, generating an additional 57,355 jobs in plastic and rubber products and 62,587 related jobs.

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