

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
NAVIGATION COMMISSION FOR THE DELAWARE RIVER
AND ITS NAVIGABLE TRIBUTARIES**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPRENTICE PILOT
OPENINGS FOR 2022**

The Pennsylvania Navigation Commission for the Delaware River and its Navigable Tributaries announces openings in its apprentice river pilot program.

The Commission will accept apprentice pilot applications through **November 30, 2022**. At this time, the Commission anticipates appointing seven apprentices in 2022.

Interested persons may obtain application forms and descriptions of the job duties by writing the Commission at 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110; by e-mailing ra-navcomm@pa.gov, by downloading an application from the Commission's website at www.dos.pa.gov/navigation or by calling the Commission at (717) 783-7129. Any person who previously had an apprentice pilot application on file with the Commission must file a new application in order to be considered for appointment as an apprentice pilot.

State Licensure of Pilots

Every vessel transiting the Delaware River that is bound to or from a foreign port is required to use the services of a pilot licensed by either Pennsylvania or Delaware. A state-licensed Delaware River Pilot has the required "local knowledge" of tides, currents, channel depths, shoals, and other conditions that are needed to safely navigate a vessel on the Delaware River.

The Commission issues the following classes of pilot licenses based on the maximum draft of the vessel that may be piloted: first-class license – unlimited draft; second-class license – maximum draft of 45 feet; third-class license – maximum draft of 40 feet; fourth-class license – maximum draft of 35 feet; fifth-class license – maximum draft of 32 feet; and sixth-class license – maximum draft of 27 feet. A pilot must serve at least one year in each of the five lower classes before being eligible for licensure as a first-class pilot.

The completion of an apprenticeship is a prerequisite to licensure as a sixth-class pilot.

Apprentice Qualifications

Apprenticeships are open to every United States citizen who meets the following requirements. To be eligible for consideration for appointment as an apprentice pilot, an applicant must have either (a) a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, university, or maritime academy or (b) a United States Coast Guard-issued license to serve as third mate on all oceans aboard vessels of at least 1,600 tons, or a higher class of license.

Applicants will be judged on relevant education and experience, physical fitness, and moral character. Prior maritime experience is desirable but not mandatory. A description of the duties of an apprentice and a pilot are included with each application form.

A successful personal interview is a requisite qualification for the position of apprentice.

Apprentice Program

An apprentice who, at the time of appointment, possesses at least a third mate's license will serve a three-year apprenticeship; an apprentice who does not possess at least a third mate's license will serve a four-year apprenticeship.

The apprentice program, which will be administered by the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware, is mentally challenging and physically demanding. The program consists of a quarterly rotation of practical training and a regular schedule of seminars, testing and off-site training. The practical training is comprised of river trips, pilot launch duty, maritime tower duty and special duty. A four-year apprentice will complete approximately 800 trips on the Delaware River and Bay under the supervision of a state-licensed pilot; a three-year apprentice will complete approximately 650 trips.

Apprentices will receive health care coverage and will be paid stipends as follows; first year - \$20,000; second year - \$22,000; third year - \$24,000; and fourth year - \$26,000.

Apprentices will be subject to random drug testing.

If you receive a tentative offer of apprenticeship, then you will be required to produce a copy of your birth certificate, proof of citizenship, your driver's license, an update your transcript from educational institutions, as well as obtain an examination by a physician.