

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:

Senate Bill 868

DATE:

March 10, 2020

SUBJECT:

Apprenticeship Maryland 2030

COMMITTEE:

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION:

Information Only

CONTACT:

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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for your consideration regarding Senate Bill (SB) 868, Apprenticeship Maryland 2030. SB868 establishes a Career and Technology Education Committee as the sole agency for administration of the federal Carl D. Perkins Career Technical Education Act and incorporates the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) exam an integral component of CTE.

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) is the principal source of federal funding to states for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs of study. The MSDE receives over 17 million dollars in federal Perkins funds that is awarded to all 24 local school systems, 14 community colleges, Juvenile Services Education System, Adult Corrections, and affiliates such as the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, four-year institutions of higher education, and other non-profits.

Federal law defines requirements that states must complete in order to receive and administer federal Perkins funds. Federal law also details allowable expenses for federal Perkins funds. The MSDE is operating under a state Perkins plan that has been approved by the United States Department of Education. SB868 does not align with Maryland's federally approved Perkins plan. Specifically, Maryland's approved Perkins plan identifies the MSDE as the sole agency for administration of Perkins funds. SB868 moves administration of Perkins to a Career and Technology Education Committee, which is not in compliance with Maryland's approved Perkins plan. Additionally, SB868 fails to address other federal requirements of CTE such as those identified in the Office of Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA) CTE Guidelines. If SB868 passes, it will make the state noncompliant with federal Perkins requirements and will jeopardize 17 million dollars in funding to the state.

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The Career and Technology Education Committee described in SB868 performs duplicative functions as the state's CTE Advisory Committee. The Maryland CTE Advisory Committee is led by the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education and is composed of similar members identified in SB868. The MSDE regularly collaborates with the Governor's Workforce Development Board, Maryland Department of Labor, Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Higher Education Commission, community colleges, local school systems, and employers to inform the direction and implementation of CTE. It is unclear how the function of the Career and Technology Education Committee would differ from practices that are currently implemented by the MSDE.

SB868 does not address how the MSDE is currently implementing CTE, which already includes many components identified in the Bill. For example, the Bill highlights apprenticeships as an essential element of CTE. In 2018, the MSDE established Apprenticeship Maryland as a CTE program of study. The MSDE works closely with the Maryland Department of Labor and local school systems to engage employers and expand apprenticeship opportunities for all students. All of Maryland's CTE programs of study provide the opportunity for students to earn industry-recognized credentials and/or college credit. The MSDE is adding a military CTE program of study and is incorporating ASVAB testing. As a result, the intent of SB868 is already being addressed.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **SB 868**. For further information, please contact Tiffany Johnson Clark, at 410-260-6028, or tiffany.clark1@maryland.gov.