



House Ways and Means Committee

TESTIMONY

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BILL: HB0603 County Boards of Education – Establishing Regional Career and Technical Education Schools
Position: Favorable with Amendment

Chesapeake College recognizes both the need for and value of CTE programming. Since my appointment as President, Chesapeake College has reinvigorated the development of curriculum and improvement of facilities and other aspects in offerings in the trades and skilled professions. The College was already a strong provider in the region for the health professions, including both non-credit and credit programs from medical administrative assistant to RN-ASN (Nursing). The College has also strengthened its partnership with our local public school systems across our five service counties to coordinate regional offerings and to enhance additional options between the various high school programs to provide students either access to programs not available in their K-12 systems or to provide additional certifications and training in those areas. Toward that end, we have developed a matrix (attached with this document) that illustrates nineteen (19) available programs across the five-county region. This matrix is updated every year and is fully coordinated with our local CTE directors. In addition to the portfolio of health service related curriculum, Chesapeake College currently offers non-credit and credit trades programs in the following: HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Welding and Metal Fabrication, and Marine Trades. Other CTE-related programs include Computer Science Technology, Criminal Justice, Agriculture, Technical & Professional Studies, Business Management, Accounting, Early Childhood, and Elementary Education. Chesapeake College also offers entry level training in basic culinary services.

As Chesapeake College improves its own offerings in these high-demand program areas we have been seeking to improve our connections to our local K-12 systems, in several cases offering program access in areas that those high school programs do not have facilities to support those programs of study. Recent examples of those include Welding, Computer Science and Certified Nursing Assistant (with students from Talbot County High School). Whenever possible we have been exploring options for dual enrollment in these CTE areas.

Regarding HB0603/SB0794, Chesapeake College is prepared to support the region in whatever way possible to improve access to CTE programs. In line with this legislation and upon requisite support from any sponsoring county and school district, the Board of Trustees would be willing to consider hosting a CTE facility on the existing Chesapeake College campus. Key questions that would need to be answered to bring such a facility into existence would be determining capital and ongoing operations and maintenance funding as well as governance for such a multi-county facility. I would

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assume, also, that certain state agencies involved in the construction and maintenance of such a facility would need to review and determine how such a facility would be constructed and maintained in the future.

A suggestion I would make is that legislation be considered (or an amendment made to this enabling legislation) to fund a needs assessment for the region to support the movement to establish a Regional Career and Technical Education School in the Mid-Shore Region.