
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 0490

TO: Appropriations Committee
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor
DATE: January 29, 2026
BILL: *Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions*

MDL POSITION: SUPPORT

House Bill 490 proposes several critical revisions to the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* to ensure its successful implementation; specifically, this letter addresses the provisions that 1) eliminate the requirement currently placed on the Maryland Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to form a separate CTE Skills Standards Advisory Committee, 2) reassign the responsibilities of the eliminated CTE Skills Standards Advisory Committee to the GWDB and its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee, including developing statewide guidance on occupational standards and developing statewide high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand occupation definitions and career pathways maps that will guide pathway development; and, 3) ensure consistency with Maryland Education Code § 21-204 language regarding the *Blueprint's* 45% goal.

Our support for this legislation is rooted in operational efficiency and in alignment across education, workforce, and industry. Under the current *Blueprint* law, the requirement to establish, seat, and staff a redundant subcommittee creates an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy that duplicates efforts already underway within the GWDB and its CTE Committee. Removing this provision will mitigate an additional administrative burden and avoid creating a need for staffing resources that are not currently available in the State's budget.



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HB 490 also provides necessary technical corrections that align legislative language with the practical realities of our work. These clarifications ensure that all stakeholders – from educators to industry partners – are operating under a unified set of definitions and objectives around high-wage, high-skill, or in-demand fields that are priorities for Maryland’s economic present and future.

The revisions proposed in HB 490 replace organizational redundancy with focused governance, and optimize the *Blueprint’s* framework to deliver on its promise of high-quality, industry-aligned career pathways for Maryland’s students.

The Governor’s Workforce Development Board and the Department respectfully request a Favorable Report on HB 490.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov