

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 653
Economic Matters

(Delegate Qi)

Joint Committee on Workforce Development

This bill establishes a Joint Committee on Workforce Development to (1) evaluate the condition of Maryland’s public- and private-sector workforces; (2) monitor workforce skills shortages; (3) identify strategies to expand employment opportunities and increase income for Marylanders through workforce skills policies; (4) monitor workforce educational training; and (5) review and evaluate the effectiveness of relevant programs, policies, and practices, including career and technology education (CTE) programs and apprenticeship programs. The committee has review over (1) CTE programs; (2) workforce programs under the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC); (3) the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program; (4) the Governor’s Workforce Development Board; and (5) other workforce development programs in the State. The committee must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31 each year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any staffing costs and expense reimbursements for the joint committee can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State administers a variety of programs related to workforce development. For example, the Governor's Workforce Development Board, housed within the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL), develops strategies and coordinates efforts among agencies to deliver education and training for anyone seeking employment. The board works with 12 local workforce boards throughout the State, which aim to ensure that each area's workforce is well-prepared to meet the current and future needs of local businesses. Members are appointed by the Governor, and the board must submit an annual report to the Governor.

MDL's Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning supports the State's economic growth through a workforce development, education, and training system. It includes the Office of Apprenticeship and Training, which is responsible for registering and regulating apprenticeship programs in the State. The Apprenticeship and Training Council serves in an advisory capacity to the office.

In addition, MHEC administers the Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to students enrolled in community college programs related to job preparation or an apprenticeship, licensure or certification, or job skills enhancement.

Career and Technical Education

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act is the 2018 reauthorization of the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins), which was last overhauled in 2006. The new Perkins law provides formula grants to states to implement CTE programs in their secondary schools and postsecondary institutions. The State Board of Education is responsible for administering the federal Perkins program in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 302 of 2020 received a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 840, received a hearing in the House Economic Matters Committee, but no further action was taken. SB 616 of 2019 received a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 1073, was referred to the House Economic Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

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