

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 422 (Senator Rosapepe, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Education – Jobs That Require Driving – Requirements (Drivers Education for
Good Jobs Act of 2022)**

This bill requires the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to establish, by December 31, 2022, a statewide CTE pathway for high school students to prepare for a career that requires driving skills and a driver's license and that leads to the student achieving the required license. The CTE Committee must also establish an annual goal for the number of students who obtain the appropriate driver's license before they graduate from high school. The bill also authorizes a local school board to allow an employee of the board, or an employee of a person that contracts with the board, to transport a public school student in a vehicle if the driver is at least 19 years and 6 months old and has at least three years of experience driving a vehicle. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: As the CTE Committee has not been appointed, it is unlikely that the bill's provisions can be implemented, as discussed below. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None. The bill's provisions related to driving students is authorizing in nature. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The CTE pathway must include assistance with:

- obtaining a standard driver's license when the individual is 16 years old;

- enrolling in and completing courses required to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) or specialty license before the end of the student's senior year of high school;
- completing three weeks of on-the-road training before July 1 during or immediately after the student's senior year of high school; and
- obtaining a CDL or specialty driver's license as soon as possible after the student reaches the age of 18.

Current Law:

Career and Technical Education Committee

Chapter 36 of 2021 (Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation) created the CTE Committee as a unit within the Governor's Workforce Development Board. The purpose of the committee is to build an integrated, globally competitive framework for providing CTE to Maryland students in public schools, postsecondary institutions, and the workforce. In accordance with Chapter 55 of 2021, the State Board of Education must, by October 1, 2021, request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to transfer responsibility for the administration of the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to the CTE Committee. If the waiver is granted, the CTE Committee is responsible for administering Perkins.

Perkins Program

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act is the 2018 reauthorization of Perkins, which was last overhauled in 2006. The new Perkins law provides approximately \$1.2 billion in formula grants to states to implement CTE programs in their secondary schools and postsecondary institutions. The new law allows states to set their own goals for CTE programs, requires them to make progress toward those goals, and makes other changes to federal CTE law. Under the State plan submitted to the federal government, MSDE administers Perkins funds for the State.

Generally, Perkins requires states to develop sequences of academic and CTE coursework, called programs of study, that prepare students for postsecondary degrees or industry-recognized credentials. Many of the programs of study – which range from plumbing and culinary arts to aerospace engineering and cybersecurity – include or encourage apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship opportunities.

In federal fiscal 2020, Maryland received \$18.2 million in Perkins Title I grants to support CTE programs in secondary schools and postsecondary institutions. Of that amount, \$15.5 million (85%) was distributed to local governments, and the remaining 15% was designated for statewide activities and administration. Of the \$15.5 million distributed to

local governments, 65% was used for secondary school programs, and 35% was spent on postsecondary programs. Perkins funds are used for a variety of purposes at the local level, including teacher professional development, equipment, and program development and administration.

MSDE has developed several dozen programs of study grouped within 10 career clusters, including a transportation technologies cluster. Each program of study includes a sequence of four courses that begin in either grade 10 or 11 and prepares students for either further study or industry certification.

Driver's Licenses

An individual must be at least 21 years old to drive a commercial vehicle across state lines, or at least 18 to drive a commercial vehicle within the State.

If an individual otherwise qualifies, the Motor Vehicle Administration may issue (1) a learner's instructional permit to an individual who is at least 15 years, 9 months old; (2) a provisional license to an individual who is at least 16 years, 6 months old; or (3) a driver's license to an individual who is at least 18 years old.

State Expenditures: As of February 2022, the CTE Committee has not been appointed, and the Governor's fiscal 2023 budget, as introduced, does not include funding for the committee. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Education has notified MSDE that Perkins does not include any provisions that allows it to grant a waiver to state boards of education, so MSDE has not submitted the waiver request. However, Perkins does allow the State Board of Education to delegate some of its authority under the Act to other State agencies. As the CTE Committee has not been constituted, MSDE cannot delegate any authority to it. Thus, it is unlikely that the CTE Committee can carry out the bill's provisions within the timeframe required by the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 750 (Delegate D. Jones) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland Department of Labor; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore City Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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