

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 478 – *Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations*.

Senate Bill 478 removes the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee from the oversight of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB) and stands it up as an independent entity within the Maryland Department of Labor (Labor).

The CTE Committee was a product of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The vision and intent behind having the GWDB oversee the CTE Committee was the transformation of how CTE was to be run in the State. Allowing business and Maryland employers to drive the curriculum and strategy to further bridge the gap between education and employment and ensure more successful outcomes. Removing the CTE Committee from the GWDB alters what was originally envisioned with the Blueprint. As we know, the Blueprint was a product of many years of study, work, and debate that included input and feedback from stakeholders across the state. The amendment that changed this was inserted on the second to last day of the Legislative Session with virtually no input from stakeholders. Furthermore, the intent behind the amendment is still unclear nor is it known why this amendment was added as it was never discussed in either chamber. This is a hasty and haphazard process for such a significant change to a critical process in the future of our children’s educational outcomes and the significant investments made by the state and Maryland taxpayers.

By removing the CTE Committee from the GWDB, much of the implementation efforts previously undertaken will need to be duplicated by a new unit. Over the last year, the GWDB staff have facilitated many connections and set up critical infrastructure to begin the process of standing up the CTE Committee. As passed, Senate Bill 478 would necessitate Labor to hire new staff to manage the CTE Committee and its many duties and functions. This would cause significant delays to the process given this sudden and unforeseen alteration.

Furthermore, because Labor is unable to use the existing resources provided by the GWDB, Labor would need additional significant funding and resources to hire new staff for the administration of the CTE Committee—funding that has not been allocated or budgeted.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 478.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor