

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 585 (Senator Hester, *et al.*)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Career and Technical Education Committee - Alterations

This bill increases the number of members of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee jointly appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Delegates from six to eight, and it expands representation on the committee to include skilled trade organizations and career colleges. The bill requires the CTE Committee to include representatives of career colleges and skilled trade organizations in its efforts to bring together stakeholders to ensure that programs are aligned with the State’s economic development and workforce goals and operate with best global practices. Finally, the bill expands the CTE Committee’s duties to include developing a list of skilled trade organization and career college programs and share the list with guidance counselors and public schools for distribution to students. To do so, the CTE Committee may create advisory structures to ensure essential input from skilled trade organizations and career colleges.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any change in State activities does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: Local school systems can distribute a list of specified programs using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 36 of 2021 (Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation) created the CTE Committee as a unit within the Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB). 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.

The CTE Committee is composed of 11 members of GWDB, including 5 *ex officio* members and 6 members jointly appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Delegates. The 5 *ex officio* members are (1) the State Superintendent; (2) the Secretary of Higher Education; (3) the Secretary of Labor; (4) the Secretary of Commerce; and (5) the chair of the Skills Standards Advisory Committee. The 6 appointed members must collectively represent employers, industry or trade associations, labor organizations, community colleges, the agricultural community, and experts in CTE programming.

Additional Comments: “Career college” is not a defined term in Maryland statute. In Maryland, postsecondary career-oriented education is generally provided through for-credit or noncredit programs at the public community colleges or at private career schools that offer noncredit education programs.

A “private career school” is defined in statute as a privately owned and privately operated institution of postsecondary education other than an institution of higher education that furnishes or offers to furnish a program, whether or not requiring a payment of tuition or fee, for the purpose of training, retraining, or upgrading individuals for gainful employment as skilled or semiskilled workers or technicians in recognized occupations or in new and emerging occupations.

GWDB notes that members of the CTE Committee must be selected from among members of GWDB. To the extent that skilled trade organizations and career colleges are not represented on GWDB, new members will have to be appointed to GWDB before they can be appointed to the CTE Committee.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 541 and SB 478 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: HB 143 (Delegate Qi) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

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