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State Superintendent of Schools

BILL: Senate Bill 668 **DATE:** March 9, 2021

SUBJECT: Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021 **COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Information Only

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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding Senate Bill (SB) 668 - Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021. The Bill transfers administration of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Innovation Grant from MSDE to a newly created CTE Committee. It narrows the focus of the CTE Innovation Grant to redesigning high school and community college CTE programs to provide instruction for registered apprenticeships. As a result of the narrowed focus of these funds, school systems and community colleges will experience a reduction in the amount of funds available to implement innovative CTE programs connected to other work-based learning experiences such as internships. Additionally, the Bill requires grant funds to be administered to local workforce development boards to implement an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) partnership with school systems to release students' personal information and ASVAB scores.

SB 668 restricts the use of CTE Innovation Grants funds to focus on registered apprenticeships. This limitation creates inequitable opportunities for CTE students. There are over 110,000 secondary students and 54,000 postsecondary students enrolled in CTE programs. Currently, there are approximately 60 youth apprenticeship and 9,000 adult apprenticeship opportunities available statewide. If all available apprenticeship opportunities were filled by secondary and postsecondary CTE students, there would still be approximately 154,000 Maryland CTE students without access to a work-based learning opportunity. It is unclear how all CTE students would benefit from limiting the CTE Innovation Grant to solely focus on registered apprenticeships.

SB 668 requires the CTE Committee established in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to administer the CTE Innovation Grant. The CTE Committee is not established. Once the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is implemented, it will take time to select CTE Committee members, establish a meeting schedule, establish protocols for administration of grant, train grant reviewers, establish a grant monitoring protocol, and implement other items that are necessary to start a new committee. It is unclear how a newly developed committee will be prepared to administer funds to school systems and community colleges by the start of fiscal year 2022.

It is also unclear if the CTE Innovation Grant application and award administration process developed by an external CTE Committee will jeopardize federal funds to school system and community colleges. Requirements in the federal *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (Perkins V) inform administration of CTE in Maryland. Approximately 90% of Maryland's CTE funding is from the federal Perkins V grant. School systems and community colleges must adhere to the requirements detailed in the [Maryland CTE Four-Year State Plan](#) that was approved by the U.S. Department of Education to receive federal Perkins funds. When MSDE administers any grant for CTE to school systems and community colleges, protocols are implemented to prevent supplanting issues and to ensure that the school system or community college remains eligible for federal Perkins funds. Transferring administration of a State grant for CTE to a committee external to MSDE could impact federal funding to school systems and community colleges.

Several requirements of SB 668 are currently being implemented. In fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the CTE Innovation Grant application included a priority to fund apprenticeship opportunities. Additionally, MSDE was awarded a \$600,000 U.S. Department of Education Pathways to STEM Apprenticeship Grant. Funds from this grant were awarded to local school systems and community colleges to develop and implement CTE instruction for registered apprenticeships. School systems and community colleges can also use federal Perkins funds administered by MSDE to support apprenticeship opportunities. SB 668 requires funds to be administered to local workforce development boards to implement ASVAB and share student outcomes. Funding to support administration of ASVAB for CTE students is already provided through federal Perkins funds. School systems and community colleges already have the option to share results of ASVAB and other student information in accordance with student data privacy laws and regulations. As a result, the intent of the Bill is already being addressed through leveraging State and federal funds to support a holistic implementation of CTE in Maryland.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **SB 668**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov.