

Written Testimony SB 668 3-09-2021.pdf

Uploaded by: Anderson, Stephanie

Position: FAV

MARYLAND WORKFORCE

A L L I N C E

Date: March 09, 2021
Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Legislation: Testimony on SB 668 Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021
Position: Support

Good Afternoon Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee. My name is Joseph DeMattos, and I serve as Chair of the Maryland Workforce Alliance. The Maryland Workforce Alliance is a coalition of 35 trade associations, labor unions and apprenticeship providers that have come together to support common sense workforce legislation. The Maryland Workforce Alliance unites trade associations, unions, and nonprofits to promote a world-class workforce in Maryland. We endeavor to bridge the skills gap and address critical employment shortages in key fields and to forge pathways that connect employers, apprenticeship sponsors, and job seekers.

The Maryland Workforce Alliance works for the creation of jobs in markets experiencing labor shortages through career and technical education in public schools, certificate programs in community colleges, youth apprenticeship programs and registered apprenticeship programs. MWA's work ensures there is increased engagement in the development and execution of workforce skills training programs. We believe this bill elevates workforce skills training programs and makes available equal access to students interested in workforce training as is made available for college readiness. This bill will require school systems to provide opportunity for students to share their Naviance results with apprenticeship sponsors and employers registered with the Maryland Department of Labor or a local workforce board. This requirement has the opportunity to improve access and improve participation in workforce readiness programs. This bill will also require schools to provide equal visibility and access to apprenticeship sponsors and employers as they do for colleges and thereby allowing schools to reach more students and improving on communication and access to training and employment opportunities.

The Maryland Workforce Alliance is pleased with the requirement found in this bill to require school systems which pay for fees to take AP, PSAT, or SAT tests, to pay fees for skills credential and apprenticeship entrance exams. The bill also alters the purposes of the existing CTE Innovation Grant program. for fiscal Years 2022 and 2023, to provide grants of \$100,000 to each local workforce board to (1) implement an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Results Partnership, as specified in the bill or; (2) create a system to release a student's personal information and ASVAB scores to specified apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs. The Maryland Workforce Alliance finds the requirements of this bill align with our mission to create additional pathway to connect more youth with the training and

skills needed to be career ready and ultimately expand employment opportunities and increase income for Marylanders.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage this Committee to vote favorably on SB 668.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph DeMattos,
Chair, Maryland Workforce Alliance.

MBIA Testimony SB 668.pdf

Uploaded by: Graf, Lori

Position: FAV

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: SB 668 Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 668 Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021**. **MBIA Supports** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing a postsecondary education. MBIA respectfully supports this measure. While we recognize that a post-secondary education is an important step for many career paths, new technology and focused education has made it easier than ever to learn new skills quickly. The economy of today is often highly specialized, and it is important for workers to have a specific skill set rather than a broad education. Allowing people who have obtained these specialized skills to be considered along with their peers that took a more traditional college route levels the employment playing field and will provide employers with a larger pool of capable candidates for a position.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

MD Catholic Conference_SB 668_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: O'Day, Garrett

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 9, 2021

**Senate Bill 668
Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021**

Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

SUPPORT

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 668. The Conference represents the public policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

Senate Bill 668 will promote awareness and access vocational certificates, industry certifications and apprenticeship programs through information sharing directly to students. In the same manner as access to postsecondary education is promoted, the bill requires a similar emphasis on vocational training.

Particularly with the rising costs of postsecondary education acting as a significant barrier for college access for low-income students, it is important that Maryland offer and promote a wide variety of options beyond traditional educational confines. Vocational, trade and apprenticeship programs are integral components in job training in important sectors of our economy. Student awareness of these options is imperative and could result in significant economic opportunities for those students.

The Church emphasizes special attention toward advancing opportunities for those who might be marginalized in having less educational opportunity than others. States should do all that they can to level the playing fields across income levels with regard to access to education. The Conference supports legislation, such as Senate Bill 668, that promotes access to “education, access to health care, and above all employment, for it is through free, creative, participatory and mutually supportive labor that human beings express and enhance the dignity of their lives.” (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 192). It is through education that citizens find a pathway toward economic security and the dignity of work.

Senate Bill 668 will assist in providing both knowledge and skill, with an aim toward eventually gainful employment, to youth who might otherwise face serious obstacles to obtaining those things. It is for these reasons that we urge a favorable report for Senate Bill 668.

SB0668 - MCPS-FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Suskind, Danielle

Position: FWA



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0668
TITLE: Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021
DATE: 3/9/2021
POSITION: Support with Amendment
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs
[Danielle M Susskind @mcpsmd.org](mailto:Danielle.M.Susskind@mcpsmd.org)

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0668 **with an amendment**.

HB0668 would support priorities and practices MCPS has long had in place which include: preparing students for college and career success; establishing specific software system, such as Naviance, to support students postsecondary goals and careers; valuing equally the pursuit of career credentials and a postsecondary education; allowing students and parents to give written permission for the release of student data; publicizing opportunities for students to participate in work based learning programs which include apprenticeships; covering the cost of students to take AP, SAT, or career credentialing assessments; and accessing CTE innovative grant funds to redesign high school programs and maximize role in providing innovative instruction that includes support of apprenticeships.

The Bill will also provide for the establishment of grant funds overseen by the State and awarded to qualifying local Workforce Development Boards (based on eligibility requirements determined by State) to develop partnerships with BOE by end of 2021 that would support the development of processes to administer ASVAB during school day, and a system to share student ASVAB data with registered employers. It would also establish protocols for schools that administer the ASVAB test regarding the release of scores.

Montgomery County Public Schools understands the ASVAB is an aptitude test that identifies skill strengths and knowledge in various content areas, and would be of value to State approved registered apprenticeship employers. However, MCPS does not administer the ASVAB test. We do support and allow for the administration of the ASVAB [sponsored by the Department of Defense (DoD)] within school buildings during the day and we do not collect ASVAB data;

Requested amendment language:

- recommends review and collaboration on this bill with DoD representatives as it relates to the ASVAB, its administration, and the sharing of data, and amendment to SB0668 accordingly, and
- suggests the terms defining 'CTE' be revised to align with the State's change from Career and Technology Education to Career and Technical Education.

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation **with amendments** and urges a favorable report.

SB 668.pdf

Uploaded by: Clark, Tom

Position: UNF



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 668 Good Job Opportunities for HS Graduate Act of 2021 March 9, 2021

To: Paul G. Pinsky, Chair and members of Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee
From: Tom Clark IBEW Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, I ask that you vote unfavorable on SB 668, as it is written. The title and intent of this bill is commendable, but what worries me is the fast and loose use of the word apprenticeships. The goal of this bill can be achieved without using the word or the model of apprenticeships.

I encourage all young people to look to the trades and apprenticeships for a career. I would warn these same young people to be wary of programs that are looking for cheap labor, as many of these impromptu apprenticeships do. If a young person is not being educated in a classroom, he or she is an intern, not an apprentice. If a program is not graduating people, they are exploiting them. I worry that SB 688 is looking for cheap labor, disguised by the word “apprenticeship”.

Here at Local 26 we have some 1800 applicants a year vying for 400 spots in the upcoming class. For those you do not make the cut, they are given a pathway to continue on in the trade, eventually leading to become a qualified and licensed Electrician. Our students are taught by trained instructors and must follow all of the academic and work requirements in order to graduate. This works well for the student, the union and the contractor. I worry that SB 668 is only a cost cutting measure and not the beginning of a 40 year career for the young people of Maryland.

I once again ask you to **oppose** SB 668. Consider writing a bill without hiding behind the word “apprenticeship”.

Sincerely, Tom Clark
IBEW 26



SB 668--Good Job Opportunities for HS Grads Act--U

Uploaded by: Dove, Tina

Position: UNF

Testimony in Opposition of Senate Bill 668

Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act 2021

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

March 9, 2021

1:00 pm

Tina N. Dove, M.Ed.
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association opposes Senate Bill 668, legislation which, in part, allows funding from the Career and Technology Education (CTE) Innovation Grant program to be used in support of efforts and services related to programs and entities associated with the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) assessment program for high school student. It further creates a system that would facilitate the release of a student's ASVAB scores to outside entities.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

The NEA Legislative Program for the 116th Congress of the United States expressly states, "NEA opposes...mandatory and/or coerced participation of students in the administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) exam."¹ Both NEA and MSEA proudly support the members and families of our nation's armed services. We are grateful for their sacrifices on our collective behalf. However, we do not believe it appropriate to conflate this voluntary act of service with the provision or administration of CTE-related programs and services to our high school

¹ Available online at <https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/NEA%20Federal%20Legislative%20Program%2C%202020.pdf> (Accessed on March 5, 2021)



students. If students wish to participate in the ASVAB assessment and program offerings, we see no reason to prevent them from doing so. However, we do not believe that funds specifically meant to develop and support CTE programs in our public schools should be diverted to such a program.

MSEA members have been vocal supporters of CTE expansion opportunities, particularly those enacted through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We look forward to supporting the implementation of the Blueprint as it expands both opportunities for and access to CTE learning opportunities for all of our students. We simply do not believe that the efforts articulated in this legislation should be incorporated into those efforts.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB 668.

SB 668.College Career Apprenticeship CTE.pdf

Uploaded by: Woolums, John

Position: UNF

BILL: Senate Bill 668
TITLE: Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates of 2021
DATE: March 9, 2021
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 668.

MABE endorses the recently enacted Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Act and the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education’s overarching goal to develop a world class instructional system that will enable Maryland high school graduates to match students in the highest achieving countries in the world in academic attainments, equip them with the complex skills they will need to be successful in a technologically sophisticated economy, contribute to their communities, and play their roles as informed and thoughtful citizens in the world’s oldest democracy. MABE firmly believes that much progress can and should be made in this area through state and local investments in high quality programs consistent with budget-aligned strategies and plans.

Today, school systems are struggling and typically unable to meet the high demand from students and families for CTE programs. Therefore, MABE supports significantly increasing state funding to support high quality college and career readiness programs, including costs of assessments and professional certifications, professional development, student transportation, and CTE facilities and programs. MABE also supports expanding and strengthening the system of comprehensive high schools with specialized CTE programs, and specialized CTE high schools, in accordance with local school system priorities and local board governance.

MABE also recognizes the need for strong partnerships between state agencies and the private sector, and a role for the business community in establishing CTE program standards. However, MABE opposes granting governing and regulatory authority to another board or governing body in a manner that would conflict with State Board and local board governing authority.

MABE believes Maryland is already making great strides in the area Career and Technology Education (CTE). Maryland State law already requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with DLLR and the Governor’s Workforce Development Board, to develop statewide CTE goals. Specifically, goals must be set for each year from 2018 through 2024 so that by January 1, 2025, 45% of high school students successfully complete a CTE program, earn industry-recognized occupational or skill credentials, or complete a registered youth or other apprenticeship before graduating high school. This bold statewide goal is conceptually aligned with federal education reforms; and will require significant state investments to achieve.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and Maryland State ESSA Plan, prominently feature a strong emphasis on Career and Technology Education (CTE) and apprenticeship programs. Maryland’s statewide accountability system provides “credit for completion of a well-rounded curriculum” for those students who, among other criteria, have:

- completed a youth or other apprenticeship training program approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship Training Council;

- completed an industry certification aligned with an MSDE-approved CTE program and achieved CTE concentrator level status or higher; or
- completed an MSDE-approved Career and Technology Education program.

As Maryland strives to expand CTE and apprenticeship programs, it is imperative that federal funding continues to provide a substantial amount of the funding for these programs. Therefore, MABE was a strong advocate for the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The Perkins CTE Act should cultivate innovative academic and credentialing programs designed to advance 21st Century skills and should help school systems offer practical training through apprenticeships, expand dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities, hire and retain skilled CTE educators, and develop classrooms designed and equipped to deliver high quality CTE instruction.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 668.

SB 668 - LOI - Good Job Opportunities for High Sch

Uploaded by: Hands, Zachary

Position: INFO



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
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		
CONTACT:	Zachary Hands 410-767-0504 (Annapolis) Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov		

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.