

House Bill 541
Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations
FAVORABLE

Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Career School (MAACS), we wish to offer our strong support of SB 478 – Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations. Our members include career schools in the allied/medical health field, welding, HVAC, cosmetology, computer information and technology, aviation maintenance, and many more fields of study. Collectively, our members produce thousands of graduates each year with credentials that prepare them for immediate employment in fields that are currently facing extreme workforce pressures.

This bill works to solve two problems. First, we believe skilled trade organizations and career schools regularly evaluate workforce needs and make adjustments to programming to meet the needs of the workforce. However, these two stakeholders are not currently members of the Career and Technical Education Committee. This bill will allow for these stakeholders to share their information and perspectives with the other CTE Committee members to help evaluate CTE curriculum planning.

Second, this bill ensures that students in high school are made aware of all the skilled trade and career school opportunities available to them. There are currently 110,000 students enrolled in a CTE course in Maryland. While many will go onto a two- or four-year degree, the traditional college path may not be for everyone. This bill provides a list of all skilled trade programs and career colleges in Maryland so student can evaluate their post-secondary options with all the information available.

There is no question that a skilled workforce shortage exists in the United States and SB 478 is a small tool that can be used to help address the challenge. It is also important to note that this bill includes career colleges and skilled trade organizations. Each offers a unique path to a career recognized credential and we embrace our collective abilities to meet Maryland’s workforce demands.

Sincerely,

Aaron Shenck
Executive Director