

MICHELE GUYTON  
Legislative District 42B  
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Ways and Means Committee  
Early Childhood Subcommittee  
Education Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**Support – HB 652 – The More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act**

Dear Madame Chair and colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to request your consideration of HB652 – The Career-Focused Student Act. HB 652 provides more opportunities to students who may be interested in pursuing a career straight out of High School that does not require a college education. The State of Maryland has coined the term “college and career readiness” to describe the optimal preparedness for our graduating students. For far too long, however, the emphasis on higher education enrollment has been much greater than that on career readiness. The Blueprint of Maryland’s Future recognizes the value of career and technology education and licensing programs for many of our students and this bill strives to support that work in three simple ways.

The first involves the use of Naviance, an online platform where high school students can explore their interests, potential careers, and look at colleges they to which they may choose to apply. Right now, students only see colleges on Naviance. This bill will widen the scope of Naviance to include potential employers and apprenticeship sponsors. Naviance has indicated that they possess the ability to do this, and they just need a request from the school systems to do so.

Number two – HB652 requires equal visibility between apprenticeship sponsors and potential employers, and college recruitment within the school setting. The college options are very visible, but the employment and apprenticeship tracks are often hidden. For instance, if a school has a display of potential colleges they should give potential employers equal billing in the display. This will ensure that students are aware of the many opportunities available to them outside of attending college.

Thirdly, some schools pay for tests such as the PSATs, SATs, or AP tests. Some do not pay. This bill says that if a school pays for these academic tests, they must also pay for licensing credential tests and apprenticeship tests where appropriate. This way, a student will not avoid an apprenticeship or similar role because they do not have the money to pay for the accompanying test.

This bill will provide resources to our career-focused students that are not available to them now and help match job opportunities with candidates while elevating the choice to go directly into the workforce. I urge you to vote favorably on HB652.

Thank you,

Delegate Michele Guyton 42B

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".