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Bill Number: House Bill 541

Position: Letter of Information

Title: Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations

Committee: House Ways & Means Committee

Hearing Date: February 17, 2022

Bill Summary:

House Bill 541 would add a representative of a skilled trade organization and a representative of a career college to the list of members who must be selected for the Career and Technical Education Committee. It would alter the committee's duties and authorized actions to include the perspective of career colleges and skilled trade organizations; and requiring the committee to develop and provide to guidance counselors and public schools in the State a list of all skilled trade organization programs and career programs in the State.

Information:

Currently, there is no definition for the term "career college." Alternative terms for consideration are provided below:

"Private career school" means a privately owned and privately operated institution of postsecondary education... 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 (per Education Article §10–101).

"Institution of *higher* education" means an institution of postsecondary education that generally limits enrollment to graduates of secondary schools, and awards degrees at either the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level... and includes public, private nonprofit, and for-profit institutions of higher education (per Education Article §10–101). This term does not include non-degree granting institutions, such as our private career schools.

Last, a more inclusive term is "Institution of *postsecondary* education," which means a school or other institution that offers an educational program in the State for individuals who are at least 16 years old and who have graduated from or left elementary or secondary school (per Education Article §10–101).

It would be helpful to clarify which type of entity the proposed legislation intends to include. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed legislation further and provide additional clarification.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Emily A. A. Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs at emily.dow@maryland.gov, for more information.