



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

Clarence C. Crawford
President, State Board of Education

TO: Senate Finance Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 84 – Teacher Degree Apprenticeship

DATE: March 27, 2024

POSITION: Support

EXPLANATION:

Senate Bill (SB) 84 – Teacher Degree Apprenticeship seeks to establish a teacher apprenticeship startup grant program in the Department of Labor (DOL) to support a cohort of high school students, college students, and career changers to serve as tutors, paraprofessionals, and, ultimately, teachers in the State. After significant discussion with the bill sponsor, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) extend their support for SB 84. This support follows agreed-upon amendments that better align the bill with federal requirements related to Perkins V and specify additional coordination with MSDE.

Currently, youth apprenticeships in Maryland are designated career and technical education (CTE) programs. MSDE is responsible for the fiscal implementation, coordination, evaluation, and continual improvement of the career and technical education activities carried out under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), which includes the implementation of high-quality CTE programs. The amended language better aligns with the federal requirements for the management of Perkins funding, currently administered by MSDE, and strengthens the collaboration between MSDE, the CTE Committee, and the Department of Labor (DOL) to allow for the successful implementation of the proposed Teacher Degree Apprenticeship grant program.

Further, as the agency responsible for the approval and oversight of teacher preparation and the implementation of teacher certification requirements, the amendments better reflect the necessary role the Department must play in the review process for teacher apprenticeships. Specifying coordination with MSDE will help ensure that the program is designed to meet the requirements for teacher certification established in law and regulation prior to being submitted to the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council for approval.

In supporting this legislation, MSDE and the State Board are dedicated to expanding the teacher workforce through an inclusive apprenticeship pathway that can attract and develop a diverse cohort of individuals as they seek to build a career in Maryland schools. To this end, the Department looks forward to a continued partnership with DOL, the CTE Committee, and our partners in the General Assembly.

We respectfully request that the committee consider this information on SB 84. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Education Policy, and Government Relations, at Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov or at 410-767-0504 or Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board, at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov or at 443-915-6094, if you would like any additional information.