
TO: House Ways and Means Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 1035 – Focusing Federal Career and Technical Education Act Funds on Blueprint School-to-Work Apprenticeship Goals Act

DATE: March 27, 2024

POSITION: Support

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits this letter to **support** Senate Bill (SB) 1035 *Focusing Federal Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act Funds on Blueprint School-to-Work Apprenticeship Goals Act*. The bill requires the State Board, MSDE, and the CTE Committee of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board (CTE Committee) to collaborate on the development and approval of the 4-year State Plan for CTE, and to ensure mutual programmatic and fiscal alignment with the federal Carl D. Perkins Act and the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

After significant discussion with the bill sponsor, the MSDE and the State Board extend their support for SB 1035 following agreed-upon amendments.

The collaboration between the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee on the development of the Four-Year State Plan for Career and Technical Education is essential for aligning CTE programs with workforce needs and ensuring the strategic direction of education in Maryland. This partnership is strengthened and codified as a result of the proposed amendments to SB1035 and will help to ensure the creation of a robust education and workforce pipeline that addresses the dynamic career demands within the state. Through this concerted effort, MSDE and the CTE Committee aim to provide students with the skills and knowledge required for high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand careers, enhancing Maryland's economic growth and competitiveness.

Furthermore, under the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, the State Board and MSDE are vested with the authority to administer the Carl D. Perkins grant and oversee all fiscal activities mandated by the federal statute. This critical role includes the allocation of funds, oversight of program quality, and ensuring that CTE programs meet federal requirements. This federal backing not only supports the advancement of high quality CTE programs in Maryland but also ensures that career awareness, career exploration, and academic and career objectives are available across the educational space so that all students have the opportunity to succeed in career, postsecondary education, and life.

We respectfully request that the committee consider this information on **SB 1035**. 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.