

**INFORMATIONAL**  
**House Bill 1077**  
**Education – Career and Technical Education-Workgroup to Study Tiered**  
**Stackable Credentials Framework**

**House Committee on Ways and Means**  
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The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on House Bill 1077, which would require the State Department of Education and the Career and Technical Education Committee to jointly convene a workgroup to review certain high school graduation-related requirements to study and make recommendations on developing a tiered system of stackable credential pathways for a certain purpose. It would also require the submission of a joint report on the workgroup's findings and recommendations by December 31, 2026, including any statutory or regulatory changes needed

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

A core tenet of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Pillar 3 – College and Career Readiness, is the ability for students to earn industry-recognized credentials that are aligned to the needs of a particular job field<sup>1</sup>. These credentials are often "stackable," meaning they build on each other as the individual gains the skills necessary to progress to a higher level of expertise. For example, in the Healthcare sector, an individual may begin as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), progress to a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), and

then to a fully Registered Nurse (RN) as they gain experience, skills, and responsibilities. Additionally, industry-recognized credentials are portable, meaning they are accepted by employers across an industry and, potentially, by professional licensing authorities, providing the most value for those seeking to advance their careers.

The study and evaluation of current frameworks for stackable credentials will provide the most current, in-demand credentialing opportunities, enabling our students to achieve their highest potential. In convening this workgroup, it may also be beneficial to include teachers, school counselors, and CTE educators as members, whose experiences working with students can provide valuable perspectives for policymakers. We believe that aligning the purpose of this workgroup, whose goal is to provide insight into a constantly evolving job market and new technological advancements, can support students from all backgrounds and ensure their success in their career development pathway.

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<sup>1</sup> Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Pillar 3 – College and Career Readiness  
<https://blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/ccr/>