

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1077

TO: Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Maryland Department of Labor

DATE: 3/6/2026

BILL: Education - Career and Technical Education - Workgroup to Study Tiered Stackable Credentials Framework

MDL POSITION: INFORMATIONAL

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee of the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) is submitting this Letter of Information to provide context regarding HB1077. This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the CTE Committee to jointly convene a workgroup to review high school graduation requirements and post-College and Career Readiness (CCR) pathways, which the Committee believes to be duplicative of existing tasks and resources. The primary objective is to develop recommendations for a tiered system of stackable, industry-recognized credentials that are portable and aligned with postsecondary education. As a system leader deeply integrated into Maryland's education and workforce development landscape, the CTE Committee recognizes the bill's intent to bridge the gap between secondary education, real-world industry skill needs, and accessible career pathways.

The CTE Committee wishes to highlight that significant work aligned to the bill's goals is already statutorily required and currently underway in coordination between the CTE Committee and MSDE. Our primary concern is ensuring that this bill builds upon established work rather than inadvertently creating a parallel process or a redundant workgroup that leads to administrative redundancy, additional strain on already-limited staff capacity to meet ambitious milestones, and unnecessary use of additional fiscal resources.

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Under Md. Code Ann., Educ. §21-209(h), the CTE Committee is already statutorily required to determine which programs should be approved for credit toward high school graduation and to perform all tasks necessary to achieve the statewide goal – set in §21-204 – of 45% of students earning an industry-recognized credential before graduation. Furthermore, the reporting and recommendation functions requested in this bill mirror our current obligations under §21-209(k). This statute already requires the Committee to provide an annual assessment of the state of CTE and recommend the specific “statutory, regulatory, budgetary, and structural changes” needed to address the challenges of the evolving CTE system. The CTE Committee is concerned that convening an additional, parallel workgroup to produce a separate report by December 31, 2026, would create administrative redundancy.

Given that the implementation mechanisms and policy-making authority required to realize the vision of HB1077 are already active within our current framework, we believe the most effective path forward is to build upon these established structures rather than creating a duplicate process. The GWDB CTE Committee encourages the Committee to consider how this bill can be harmonized with existing efforts to ensure a unified and efficient approach to student success. We understand that MSDE is suggesting amendment language that we have reviewed and believe strikes the right balance by building on work already underway without adding undue redundancy.

We look forward to working with the sponsor to ensure this legislation strengthens Maryland’s existing workforce architecture rather than creating a duplicate structure.

The GWDB CTE Committee and Maryland Department of Labor respectfully request the Committee consider this information for HB1077.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov

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