



BLUEPRINT FOR  
**Maryland's Future**

Accountability &  
Implementation Board

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**BILL:** House Bill 1077

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

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Miller

**HEARING DATE:** March 10, 2026

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

**POSITION:** INFORMATION


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The Accountability and Implementation Board for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (AIB) submits this **letter of information** for **House Bill 1077 – Education – Career and Technical Education – Workgroup to Study Tiered Stackable Credentials Framework**.

House Bill 1077 would require the Maryland State Department of Education and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to convene a workgroup to review the State's high school curriculum, high school graduation requirements and post-CCR pathways established under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and make recommendations on developing a tiered system of "stackable" credentials, providing pathways that allow students to earn industry-recognized credentials that lead to the pursuit of post-secondary credentials and degrees. The bill also stipulates that the proposed workgroup base their recommendations on the interim evaluation of the Blueprint to determine whether existing Blueprint career and technology education requirements were designed and being implemented in a manner aligned with such a tiered system.

An objective of the Blueprint is the expansion and strengthening of CTE programming to ensure programs of study prepare students to enter in-demand jobs and careers by connecting curriculum to industry-recognized credentials (IRCs) that are valued by employers and post-secondary programs. The goal is that 45% of high school graduates complete a high school level of a Registered Apprenticeship or IRC by the 2030-2031 school year.

To reach Blueprint goals, the AIB has convened multiple agencies and organizations and a substantial amount of work has already been done to develop a strategy and establish the infrastructure that



integrates secondary education, post secondary education, and workforce development into a seamless system of pathways that lead students to high-quality, high-wage careers. In December 2024, the Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB)’s CTE Committee issued [Career and Technical Education: Industry-Recognized Credentials – Policy on Industry-Recognized Credential Definition and Criteria, Approval and Review Process, and List of State-Approved Credentials Under the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future](#). The policy and accompanying guidance outlines a new statewide definition for industry-recognized credentials, and which credentials support the Blueprint goal that, by the 2030-2031 School Year and each year thereafter, 45% of public high school graduates will have completed the high school level of a Registered Apprenticeship or another industry-recognized credential by the time of graduation. It set seven core criteria for IRCs: 1) aligns with in-demand occupations; 2) provides documented outcomes; 3) validated by industry; 4) assessment-based; 5) standards-driven; 6) attainable and accessible; 7) portable; and a preference for credentials that are stackable and renewable.

As part of the AIB Board approval of 2024 state agency Blueprint implementation plans, the AIB tasked the GDWB’s CTE Committee, the Maryland Department of Education (MSDE), and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) with developing an [Interagency Pathway Development and Implementation Plan](#) by December 1, 2025. The plan, which was submitted for AIB review on December 3, 2025, lays out a strategic vision and goals, defines agency roles, establishes the structure for continued collaboration, and establishes the timeline for the full realization of this integrated system by 2028. It builds on Blueprint progress already made, including dual enrollment expansion and efforts to modernize Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study and expand Registered Apprenticeship opportunities for secondary and postsecondary learners. The plan commits the partner agencies to creating transparent, articulated pathways that lead from high school programs to postsecondary degrees, industry-recognized credentials, Registered Apprenticeships, and employment in high-demand fields. The AIB is currently reviewing this plan and will provide feedback to the three state agencies this spring.

These entities, capitalizing on the progress they have already made and unified through the framework they have established, are well-positioned to review and incorporate stackable credentials within career pathways to offer clear, actionable routes into in-demand jobs and careers.

We hope that you find this information helpful as you consider **HB 1077**. If you would like more information, please contact Joy Schaefer, Government Relations Director at [joy.schaefer@maryland.gov](mailto:joy.schaefer@maryland.gov) or (410) 991-7623.