

HOUSE BILL 541

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2lr2208
CF SB 478

By: **Delegates Qi, Carr, Hill, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 30, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of adding two members to the Career and Technical Education
4 Committee; altering the ~~committee's~~ Committee's duties and authorized actions to
5 include the perspective of career colleges and skilled trade organizations; requiring
6 the ~~committee~~ Committee to develop and provide to guidance counselors and public
7 schools in the State a certain list; transferring the Committee from a unit within the
8 Governor's Workforce Development Board to an independent unit within the
9 Maryland Department of Labor; repealing the requirement that a member of the
10 Committee also be a member of the Governor's Workforce Development Board; and
11 generally relating to the Career and Technical Education Committee.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section ~~21-209(d)~~ 21-209(b), (d), (h), and (i)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, 45 million federal student loan borrowers hold \$1.6 trillion of federal
19 student loan debt, and 62% of the 2019 graduating class incurred student loan debt; and

20 WHEREAS, The national average annual tuition for a public four-year in-state
21 institution of higher education is \$26,820, a public four-year out-of-state institution is

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 \$43,280, and a four-year private institution is \$54,880, and the cost of higher education in
2 the United States continues to outpace the annual rate of inflation; and

3 WHEREAS, The average bachelor's degree graduate incurs \$28,950 of debt during
4 the course of completing their degree, and Maryland graduates carry an average debt of
5 \$42,700, the second highest average student loan burden behind only the District of
6 Columbia; and

7 WHEREAS, Student loan debt disproportionately impacts African American
8 borrowers, with an average debt of \$32,047, compared to White borrowers' average debt of
9 \$18,685; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Association of Colleges and Employers reported in its 2021
11 Winter Salary Survey that the projected starting salary for a business major graduate is
12 \$58,869 and a communications major graduate is \$58,174; and

13 WHEREAS, Student loan debt has a direct impact on marriage rates, home
14 ownership rates, parenthood, retirement savings, and the pursuit of further education; and

15 WHEREAS, There is a skilled labor shortage in the United States and high demand
16 for workers in these industries; and

17 WHEREAS, The average total cost for a vocational or trade school program is
18 \$33,000 and typically can be completed in 3 to 18 months; and

19 WHEREAS, The average starting salary for a trade school graduate is \$42,000; now,
20 therefore,

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 Article – Education

24 21–209.

25 (b) (1) The CTE Committee is [a unit within the Governor's Workforce
26 Development Board] **AN INDEPENDENT UNIT WITHIN THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT**
27 **OF LABOR.**

28 (2) The CTE Committee shall operate under the oversight of the
29 Accountability and Implementation Board, established under Title 5, Subtitle 4 of this
30 article.

31 (d) The CTE Committee is composed of the following members ~~of the Governor's~~
32 ~~Workforce Development Board:~~

33 (1) The State Superintendent;

1 (2) The Secretary of Higher Education;

2 (3) The Secretary of Labor;

3 (4) The Secretary of Commerce;

4 (5) The chair of the Skills Standards Advisory Committee, established
5 under § 21–208 of this subtitle; and

6 (6) The following [six] members, jointly selected by the Governor, the
7 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, who collectively
8 represent:

9 (i) Employers;

10 (ii) Industry or trade associations;

11 (iii) Labor organizations;

12 (iv) Community colleges;

13 (v) The agricultural community; [and]

14 (vi) Experts in CTE programming;

15 **(VII) SKILLED TRADE ORGANIZATIONS; AND**

16 **(VIII) CAREER COLLEGES.**

17 (h) The CTE Committee shall perform the following duties:

18 (1) Develop a statewide framework for CTE that prepares students for
19 employment in a diverse, modern economy;

20 (2) Allocate roles and responsibilities to State agencies for the
21 credentialing of students engaged in CTE programs;

22 (3) Adopt and, where appropriate, develop and regularly update a
23 comprehensive and cohesive system of occupational skills standards to drive the State's
24 CTE system;

25 (4) Work with the business community, including nonprofit entities and
26 apprenticeship sponsors, to develop CTE learning opportunities;

1 (5) Bring together representatives from public schools, institutions of
2 postsecondary education, **CAREER COLLEGES, SKILLED TRADE ORGANIZATIONS**, and
3 the business community, including nonprofit entities and apprenticeship sponsors, to
4 ensure that CTE programs are aligned with the State's economic development and
5 workforce goals and operate with best global practices;

6 (6) Set content qualification and recruitment standards for CTE
7 instructors;

8 (7) Determine which programs should be approved for credit towards high
9 school graduation requirements;

10 (8) Approve, reject, or modify the proposals made by the CTE Skills
11 Standards Advisory Committee established under § 21–208 of this subtitle to establish CTE
12 programs for public school students;

13 (9) Address operational issues associated with delivering CTE programs to
14 students, including transportation to and from job sites;

15 (10) Review agency budget proposals involving CTE and make
16 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
17 Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 15 each year;

18 (11) Monitor the progress of CTE in the State, including progress on
19 implementing the CTE goals in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future;

20 (12) Develop yearly goals for each county board to reach the statewide goal
21 under § 21–204 of this subtitle that 45% of public school students achieve an
22 industry-recognized occupational credential before they graduate;

23 (13) Track progress toward and perform any tasks necessary to achieve the
24 statewide goal under § 21–204 of this subtitle that 45% of public high school students
25 achieve a youth apprenticeship or any other industry-recognized occupational credential
26 before they graduate;

27 (14) Establish, administer, and supervise the CTE Expert Review Teams
28 established under § 5–412 of this article;

29 (15) Using State accountability data, identify schools to be investigated by
30 CTE Expert Review Teams in which sufficient numbers of students or groups of
31 demographically distinct students are not making adequate progress towards the
32 completion of the CTE pathway;

33 (16) Submit to the Accountability and Implementation Board plans for
34 deploying CTE Expert Review Teams, and deploy the teams in accordance with approved
35 plans;

1 **(17) DEVELOP A LIST OF ALL SKILLED TRADE ORGANIZATION**
2 **PROGRAMS AND CAREER SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN THE STATE AND PROVIDE THE LIST**
3 **TO GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE FOR**
4 **DISTRIBUTION TO STUDENTS;**

5 **[(17)] (18)** Share information on CTE education with the Accountability and
6 Implementation Board; and

7 **[(18)] (19)** Perform any other duties assigned by the Governor’s Workforce
8 Development Board.

9 (i) The CTE Committee may:

10 (1) Make grants to innovative programs developed by public schools,
11 institutions of postsecondary education, apprenticeship sponsors, nonprofits, and other
12 persons that help further the CTE Committee’s purpose;

13 (2) Contract with a public or private entity to research and analyze the
14 provision of CTE to students;

15 (3) Create advisory structures necessary to ensure essential input from
16 educators, parents, unions, employers, apprenticeship sponsors, community organizers,
17 local workforce boards, **SKILLED TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, CAREER COLLEGES,** and
18 other key stakeholders; and

19 (4) Adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the committee’s duties and
20 administer CTE in the State.

21 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.