



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 313

S.P. 140

In Senate, February 8, 2021

### **An Act To Advance Career and Technical Education Opportunities in Maine**

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Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator WOODSOME of York.  
Cosponsored by Speaker FECTION of Biddeford and  
Senators: BLACK of Franklin, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, DIAMOND of Cumberland,  
LIBBY of Androscoggin, POULIOT of Kennebec, Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town,  
HARRINGTON of Sanford, WHITE of Waterville.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to create a process that allows all high school students, including  
6 freshmen and sophomores, to explore their interest in career and technical education.  
7 Beginning with a student's freshman year, hours in class will count toward the hourly  
8 requirement to enroll in career and technical education, which is currently 350 hours of  
9 class time. By allowing so-called "drop-in" students to try out different skill areas, the bill  
10 will enable the State to create a realistic picture of student interest and the programs needed  
11 to meet those interests and to develop a comprehensive program to fulfill workforce needs.

12 The bill will authorize a thorough inventory of classes available across the State and  
13 an analysis of the need for more satellite programs and methods for meeting the goal of  
14 expanding satellite programs in high schools. The bill will also create a career and technical  
15 education business roundtable, where interested employers would identify their workforce  
16 needs now and in the future, including required skill sets, ensuring that the State's career  
17 and technical education programs fit business needs and providing partners in on-the-job  
18 training.

19 The bill will address existing barriers to expanding comprehensive career and technical  
20 education programs by developing a process to eliminate half-day career and technical  
21 education, which creates busing costs and interrupts instruction, and instead bring teachers  
22 to career and technical education students. The bill will also address the relevance of  
23 science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, courses in the career and  
24 technical education setting.

25 The bill will recommend changes to the career and technical education certification  
26 process to address the shortage of career and technical education teachers by  
27 acknowledging skills demonstrated in a trade or profession.

28 Overall, the bill will help to create multiple pathways for students to learn and  
29 demonstrate their knowledge in the career and technical education setting while creating  
30 programs that address the State's critical workforce shortage.