



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 313

S.P. 140

In Senate, February 8, 2021

An Act To Advance Career and Technical Education Opportunities in Maine

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 FECTIONEAU 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.