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Testimony on

L.D. 436, "An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions"

**Presented by
Representative David Woodsome
District 139**

Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
Thursday, March 9, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

I am State Representative David Woodsome, and I proudly represent District 139, Limerick, Parsonsfield, and a portion of Waterboro. It is an honor to appear before you today for the purpose of introducing L.D. 436, "*An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions.*"

With skilled trade jobs in demand, and America facing an ongoing labor shortage, L.D. 436 proposes a means of making a career path in the skilled trades a bit easier. This measure, if passed, would require school administrative units and career and technical education centers and regions to propose equivalency agreements that allow a secondary school student to gain core credit toward a high school diploma through career and technical education credit with approval from the Commissioner of Education. It likewise seeks to amend the high school diploma requirements to include core credit gained through equivalency agreements.

Upon further review, however, I would like to propose one change for this Committee to consider. Rather than specifying that the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education be given the authority to accept or reject the proposed equivalency, I submit that the language be revised, giving the authority more broadly to the Department.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4722, sub-§2-C is enacted to read:

2-C. Career and technical education equivalency. A secondary school student may gain credit toward the student's diploma requirements through a career and technical education center or region as defined in section 8301-A, subsections 3 and 6 with an equivalency agreement pursuant to section 8306-B, subsection 4-A.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8306-B, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Equivalency agreements with affiliated units. A career and technical education center or region and its affiliated unit shall propose an equivalency agreement for credit gained through a career and technical education program to be accepted as a core credit toward a high school diploma. The ~~commissioner~~ Maine Department of Education shall accept or reject the proposed equivalency agreement. If the ~~commissioner~~ Maine Department of Education either designate an alternative equivalency agreement or request a new equivalency agreement from the career and technical education center or region and its affiliated unit.

SUMMARY

This bill requires school administrative units and career and technical education centers and regions to propose equivalency agreements that allow a secondary school student to gain core credit toward a high school diploma through career and technical education credit with approval from the ~~Commissioner~~ of Maine Department of Education. It also amends the high school diploma requirements to include core credit gained through equivalency agreements.