

State of Maine
State Board of Education

Testimony of Paulette Bonneau, Vice Chairman of the State Board of Education and Member of its Career and Technical Education Committee

In Support of: 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

Sponsored by: Rep. Woodsome of Waterboro Sen. Rafferty of York

Co-Sponsored by: Sen. Rafferty of York, Senator Harrington of York, and Representatives Lanigan of Sanford, and Sampson of Alfred,

Date: February 9, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and the Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Paulette Bonneau. I am the Vice-Chair of the State Board of Education and a member of its Career and Technical Education Committee. I am here today on behalf of the State Board to speak in support of 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.

The State Board of Education (SBE) is intended to act as a body with certain policymaking, administrative, and advisory functions. Specifically, Title 20-A §405, sub-§7 recognizes the SBE as the designated state agency to “develop a state plan to administer any federal funds received for the benefit of career and technical education and programs in the State.” Under this authority and in conjunction with the CTE division of the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) the State Board of Education has been actively involved in setting a roadmap for the future of CTE in Maine using the federal Perkins V state planning process and SBE’s strategic goals.

In 2020, after a year-long review, the State Board received federal approval for a new five-year plan for CTE as required under the recently re-authorized federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (a.k.a. Perkins V). That plan highlights the importance of workforce development for Maine’s economy. The process also identified barriers to CTE success.

Barriers to Success

For the last few years, the State Board of Education CTE Committee has discussed systemic challenges that face CTE students, educators, and administrators.