

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
From: Hillary Risler, Esq., Legislative Analyst  
Date: April 16, 2021  
Subj: [LD 1072, “An Act Regarding Career and Technical Education and Memoranda of Understanding with Community Colleges” \(Pouliot\)](#)

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### SUMMARY

This bill provides that a career and technical education center or region may enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a local community college to provide career and technical education (CTE) to residents of the municipalities served by that region, center or satellite program as an alternative organizational method of delivering CTE. The MOU must include provisions that the schedule must be aligned to allow students to fulfill the requirements of the Maine Learning Results, students must be awarded college credit, where applicable, students must receive automatic admission to the University of Maine System or Maine Community College System to complete a postsecondary program that was begun at the CTE center or region and funding must be provided through the Aspirations program.

### TESTIMONY

- **Proponents**

- The State needs more individuals going into the trades field and the intent of the bill is to make it as easy as possible for students to get the training and degrees they need to do so
- Students attending CTE programs often need further training beyond what the CTE program offers
- The goal of the bill, if the program is implemented correctly, is to allow a student to graduate from college a year earlier, saving the student money and getting the student into the field quicker
- Coordinating schedules would be key for making this program work – but early college, in whatever way it is delivered, has the benefit of a lower cost to students, while at the same time growing the state’s workforce in critical areas

- The bill is consistent with the Perkins V federal funds endorsement of “better alignment of secondary/post-secondary CTE credit awards,” which is also embodied in a joint SBE/DOE/MCCS MOU
- **Opponents:** None
- **Neither For Nor Against:** None
  - *Please note: the committee did receive some written testimony suggesting the inclusion of adult education in the conversation around partnerships between CTE and Community Colleges*

### **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- Becky Smith, MCCS, suggested a friendly amendment to the bill language to clarify that the student shall only be awarded college credit upon *successful* completion of a course or program
- Sam Warren, UMS, suggested a friendly amendment to be clear that enrollment would be at one or more UMS universities, as the System itself does not enroll students

### **COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- How would this program interact with the other CTE/Early College programs, such as the Aspirations Program and Dual Enrollment?
  - [Title 20-A, Chapter 208-A: Postsecondary Enrollment](#) (*aka Aspirations Program*)
    - <https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/highered/earlycollege>
  - [Title 20-A, Chapter 229: Dual Enrollment Career and Technical Education Programs](#)
    - <https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/cte/schools/articulate>
  - <https://www.mccs.me.edu/our-programs/early-college-programs-courses/>
  - <https://www.maine.edu/students/early-college/>

### **PRELIMINARY FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

- Not yet determined
- Without additional funding, this bill could impact the funding available for the Aspirations Program