

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
From: Hillary Risler, Esq., Legislative Analyst
Date: April 26, 2021
Subj: **LD 313, "An Act To Advance Career and Technical Education Opportunities in Maine (Woodsome)**

SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

TESTIMONY

- **Proponents:** Sen Woodsome (sponsor); Ben Lucas, Maine Jobs Council; Jessica Laliberte, MAME; Brian Parke, Maine Motor Transport; Wilson Hess, SBE; Paulette Bonneau, Biddeford Center of Tech. & Biddeford Adult Edu; Dana Doran, Prof. Logging Contractors of Maine; Dwight Littlefield, DOE;
 - The hope is that this bill will help create multiple pathways for students to learn and demonstrate their knowledge in the CTe setting while creating programs that address the State’s critical skilled workforce shortage
 - Maine needs an overall strategic plan for the attraction of foundational jobs that can inform students about future employment opportunities and needed skills, and this bill will help make Maine students aware of the opportunities and be a pipeline for foundational jobs
 - One of the areas of workforce shortages is in the trucking industry, and the industry sees a need to do a better job connecting the next generation of truckers and sees supporting CTE programs as a good step and further support the formation of a CTE business roundtable
 - Career-centered pathways deserve the same attention in high school programs as college readiness
 - The concept draft is consistent with, and supports the goals of, the State Board of Education’s 5 year strategic plan for Perkins V federal funds
 - The bill doesn’t present a specific solution, but it is the beginning of a conversation that needs to take place with respect to trades-based education and training and provides a framework for doing something differently to encourage young people to consider trades-based occupations, get the community more involved in CTE, and find alternative ways to provide trades-based education
- **Opponents:** None
- **Neither For Nor Against:** None

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Potential amendment from the sponsor with language

COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A list of the Perkins V Plan, 7 key elements (attached, provided by Wilson Hess, SBE)
- Additional information from Brian Parke regarding CDL programs and barriers to overcome and suggestions (attached)
- New England Commission on Higher Education and Employability Report: https://nebhe.org/info/pdf/policy/Learning_for_Life_and_Work_Report.pdf
- Task Force on Increasing Efficiency and Equity in the Use of K-12 Education Resources (January 20, 2004) (emailed separately)

PRELIMINARY FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

- Not yet determined

Perkins V Plan: Key Elements

A core stakeholder group provided input into the Plan's development, including representatives from the Maine State Board of Education, middle school education, secondary education, postsecondary education, adult education, charter schools, guidance, business and industry, Maine Department of Labor, labor associations, and members of the public. Regional meetings provided local representation from CTE secondary schools, Community Colleges, special and underserved populations, public school systems; Indian Tribal organizations; Bondeko (an organization that helps immigrants train for skilled jobs); New Ventures Maine (a group that works to train Mainers for careers); and leaders of immigrant communities. MDOE's Special Services team and Maine's DHHS Child and Family Services team also participated.

Stakeholders provided input via meetings, web-based surveys, email correspondence, and ad hoc face-to-face discussions. Through these conversations all agreed that Maine should look beyond the confines of the Perkins V State Plan to develop a cohesive CTE vision that includes collaboration between education and workforce.

The Perkins V Plan identified statewide Maine CTE needs and grouped them into seven key areas:

- the development of clearly defined career pathways with multiple entry and exit points beginning early in education and continuing into the workforce;
- career exploration and career awareness with a focus on middle school that continues through postsecondary;
- resources to fund CTE programs, at all levels, and keep equipment in education aligned to current industry standards;
- increasing access to CTE for ALL students by reducing barriers such as high school scheduling at the secondary level and special population accommodations;
- collaboration with industry to build partnerships that supplement all educational levels of CTE and workforce;
- marketing CTE as a choice for ALL students and building parent awareness of CTE and its multiple entry and exit points that include both college and the workforce; and
- CTE teacher support that includes recruitment, certification, and professional development.

The complete State Plan, as approved, is provided separately.

WORK SESSION FOLLOW-UP
Brian Parke
**L.D. 313, “An Act To Advance
Career and Technical Education
Opportunities in Maine”**



**THE FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR THE WORK
SESSION ON LD 313**

Page 2 contains a list of all CTE schools in Maine found at <http://mainecte.org/find/>. Of these schools, six of them have Commercial Drivers License (CDL) programs offered to high school students. Those are:

- Caribou Technology Center
- Northern Penobscot Tech Region III
- Region 9 School of Applied Technology
- Somerset Career & Technical Center (new program)
- Westbrook Regional Vocational Center
- Tri-County Technical Center

At the Public Hearing, proponents were asked to develop a list of barriers to overcome and suggestions to address these barriers in the bill. Our list is specific to CDL programs offered by CTE schools:

Barrier: Updated Equipment.

- Commercial trucking is constantly changing and the technology used in trucks for safety, environmental improvements, size/shape, compliance technology, etc. is also always evolving. The latest equipment/technology is important to not only attract people to the industry, but also to prepare them for the realities of a career in trucking.
- Another consideration is whether equipment generally is a programmatic barrier for those CTE schools who do not offer CDL programs. There may be some who would offer CDL programs if they had access to (or funding for) commercial trucking equipment.

Barrier: Student Guidance.

- We have no objective evidence that this isn't happening, but there may be other opportunities to push CTE programs generally, not even specifically for CDL training.

Barrier: CTE Promotion & Instruction.

- The most effective CTE programs have the most energetic, dynamic and proactive leaders supporting these programs. There is an organic excitement about vocations when you have instructors who sincerely care about their work, their programs and their students.
- We would support the Committee considering ways to make CTE instruction a more attractive career.

All CTE Schools (<http://mainecte.org/find/>):

[Biddeford Regional Center of Technology](#)
10 Maplewood Ave. Biddeford, ME 04005

[Capital Area Technical Center](#)
40 Pierce Dr. Suite 1 Augusta, ME 04330

[Caribou Technology Center](#)
308 Sweden St Suite 1 Caribou, ME 04736

[Coastal Washington County Institute of Technology](#)
1 Bulldog Lane Machias, ME 04654

[Foster CTE Center](#)
129 Seamon Road Farmington, ME 04938

[Lake Region Vocational Center](#)
1879 Roosevelt Trail Naples, ME 04055

[Lewiston Regional Technical Center](#)
156 East Avenue Lewiston, ME 04240

[M.S.A.D. #24](#)
169 Main Street, Suite 102 Van Buren, ME 04785

[Northern Penobscot Tech Region III](#)
35 West Broadway Lincoln, ME 04457

[Presque Isle Regional Career and Technical Center](#)
79 Blake Street, Suite #3 Presque Isle, ME 04769

[Mid-Coast School of Technology](#)
1 Main Street Rockland, ME 04841

[Region 9 School of Applied Technology](#)
377 River Road Mexico, ME 04257

[Region Two School of Applied Technology](#)
P.O. Box 307 Houlton, ME 04730

[Sanford Regional Technical Center](#)
100 Alumni Boulevard Sanford, ME 04073

[Somerset Career & Technical Center](#)
61 Academy Cir Skowhegan, ME 04976

St. John Valley Technology Center

431 Main Street, PO Box 509 Frenchville, ME 04745

United Technologies Center

200 Hogan Road Bangor, ME 04401

Westbrook Regional Vocational Center

125 Stroudwater St. Westbrook, ME 04092

Tri-County Technical Center

14 Abbott Hill Road Dexter, Maine 04930
