

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR MATTHEW POULIOT

Sponsor of LD 1072

"An Act Regarding Career and Technical Education and Memoranda of Understanding with Community Colleges"

Public Hearing: April 9, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Senator Matt Pouliot and I represent Senate District 15, which consist of the towns of Augusta, China, Oakland, Sidney and Vassalboro. I am here to present LD 1072 "An Act Regarding Career and Technical Education and Memoranda of Understanding with Community Colleges"

We all know that we need more individuals going into the trades field here in Maine and we need to make it as easy as possible for students to get the training and degrees they need to do so. Students who attend our career and technical centers in Maine often need further training beyond what the CTE program offers.

The intent of this legislation is to allow career and technical education centers or regions to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local community college to provide career and technical education to the students served by that region, center or satellite program as an alternative organizational method of delivering career and technical education.

The goal would be for students to earn credits at a community college and earn high school credits at the same time. Under the memorandum of understanding the student would be accepted into the college program while in high school and attend classes at the college, but still be a student at the local high school and CTE program. The student would need to meet both the college requirements and the Maine Learning results requirements to also graduate from high school. In addition, the agreement would be set up to allow the student accepted into this program to automatically be admitted to a Maine Community College or University of Maine system after high school graduation.

A real world example of how this program could work and the difference between what is happening currently in the aspirations program is as follows was shared with me by a constituent. The individual had a niece and nephew who graduated at the same time. One went to school here in Maine, did multiple classes through the aspirations program, and did receive college credits for those classes which did transfer as college credits, but still had to attend four years of college to complete the degree. The other student attended high school in Vermont, attended college

full-time their senior year and ensured their requirements to graduate high school were met. This student is graduating college a year early because all of their credits they received met the requirements for their degree.

If this program is implemented correctly, a student may graduate from college a year earlier, saving them money and getting them into the field quicker. This would depend on how well the curriculum of the CTE program is aligned with the higher education program, but it least makes the opportunity available.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.