



**PA 19-103**—sHB 5833

*Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee  
Education Committee*

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE EXPANSION  
OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

**SUMMARY:** This act requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to create a program by January 1, 2020, that establishes an advanced manufacturing certificate program in no more than one Connecticut public high school per year. This program must enroll the following participants beginning in fall 2020:

1. public high school juniors and seniors, who may simultaneously earn high school and college credits along with an advanced manufacturing certificate while enrolled in high school, and
2. adults, who may take classes at the high school location during evening and weekend hours to earn an advanced manufacturing certificate, subject to the host board of education's approval.

The act requires BOR to (1) develop an application process and selection criteria for interested local and regional boards of education and their high schools and (2) explore possible funding mechanisms for the program. Additionally, it requires a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between participating boards of education and BOR to govern the program's operation at the high school locations.

The act also allows BOR to collaborate with an independent institution of higher education to operate the above described advanced manufacturing certificate program in a high school whose board of education applies to participate.

By January 1, 2021, the BOR president must begin reporting annually, in consultation with the president of any independent institution of higher education with which BOR chooses to collaborate, to the Higher Education and Education committees about this program's operation and effectiveness along with any recommendations for its expansion. (In practice, BOR does not have a president, but the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities serves on BOR and could presumably deliver the report.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2019

**PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

Under the act, BOR must determine the form and manner by which a board of education may apply to have a high school under its jurisdiction participate in the program. Any board may apply for solo participation or joint participation with another public school district's board.

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

Additionally, BOR must establish the criteria it will use to select a high school to participate in the program. The criteria must, at a minimum, prioritize the placement of advanced manufacturing certificate programs in areas of the state that have (1) a need for a workforce trained in advanced manufacturing, (2) economically distressed municipalities, (3) residents who lack access to these programs near their homes, and (4) sufficient space in a public high school to operate a program.

### PROGRAM FUNDING

The act requires BOR to explore the following mechanisms for program funding: public-private partnerships, grant programs, federal or state funds through Workforce Investment Boards, any relevant Department of Economic and Community Development program, the Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund, and the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship Training.

### MOU BETWEEN BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND BOR

Under the act, any board of education that BOR selects to participate in the program must enter into an MOU and any other relevant agreement with BOR to operate the program at a public high school in the school district.

For the purposes of this act, BOR may enter into an MOU or any other relevant agreement with participating boards of education, which must include the following: (1) operating hours and staffing levels for the program at the public high school, (2) student admission standards and the program's application process, and (3) the number of high school and college credits the enrolled students may earn after successfully completing the program. For purposes of the MOU or other relevant agreement, the act exempts BOR from statutory requirements pertaining to (1) state facilities planning, (2) Department of Administrative Services (DAS) execution of facility leases for state agencies, and (3) approval of certain state lease renewals by the DAS commissioner and the State Properties Review Board.

### COLLABORATION WITH INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The act allows BOR to collaborate with a private, nonprofit Connecticut college or university ("independent institution of higher education") that offers an advanced manufacturing certificate program to operate the program at a public high school, so long as the board of education selected for the program agrees to the collaboration. If the board agrees, then it must enter into an MOU and any other relevant agreement with the independent higher education institution for the program's operation.