OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 854 (File 258, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT PROMOTING CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DEMAND FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires local and regional school boards, as part of the annual student success plans they must create for each student starting in grade six, to provide evidence of career exploration in each grade, including manufacturing careers. It requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to revise and issue guidance to school boards regarding these changes to student success plans (§ 3).

The bill also requires local and regional boards of education to develop career placement goals for students choosing not to pursue an advanced degree and include those goals in their statements of educational goals (§ 2) (see BACKGROUND).

The bill requires the SDE commissioner to (1) study the demand for career and technical education teachers in the state’s technical high schools, traditional public high schools, and community college advanced manufacturing technology centers and (2) recommend ways to expand opportunities for experienced manufacturing professionals to become teachers. The commissioner must (1) consult with the Office of Higher Education executive director and Technical Education and Career System board chairperson in conducting the study and (2) by February 1, 2020, report her findings and recommendations to the Commerce Committee (§ 4).

Lastly, the bill explicitly authorizes guidance and school counselors to provide students with materials about manufacturing, military, and law enforcement careers when discussing career options (§ 1).
“Senate Amendment “A” (1) eliminates a provision requiring the state’s accountability index to include certain manufacturing-related measures, (2) replaces a provision establishing a three-member task force to study the demand for career and technical education teachers with the provision requiring SDE to study the same issue, and (3) adds the provision on student success plans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the study provision is effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Statement of Educational Goals

By law, each board of education must, with participation of parents, students, school administrators, teachers, citizens, local elected officials, and other appropriate parties, (1) prepare a statement of educational goals for the district that is consistent with the state’s educational goals and (2) develop student objectives that relate directly to the district’s goals and identify specific expectations for student skills, knowledge, and competence.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 21  Nay 0  (03/14/2019)