
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 228

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PIPELINE FOR CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE PROGRAM AND THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SCHOOLS AND REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires local and regional boards of education (“school boards”) to require that their school counselors provide information to middle and high school students and their parents on the availability of (1) vocational, technical, technological, and postsecondary education and training at technical education and career schools and (2) agricultural science and technology education at regional agricultural science and technology education centers. It also requires school boards to publish this information on their websites. Under current law, school boards must inform these students and parents about the availability of this education and training.

The bill also requires the State Department of Education (SDE), by July 1, 2023, to develop best practices that school boards may use when setting up a Pipeline for Connecticut’s Future program (i.e., a pathways program), which involves boards partnering with local businesses to offer students on-site training and course credit (CGS § 10-21k). In doing so, SDE must collaborate with stakeholders and school boards that have successfully implemented a pathways program. Additionally, SDE must make these best practices available to school boards upon request.

Lastly, the bill requires the SDE commissioner to review existing state laws and regulations related to school boards setting up pathways programs and identify any obstacles or prohibitions that may limit a board’s ability to build partnerships with local businesses towards creating a successful program. Under the bill, the review may include laws governing attendance, course credit for schoolwork performed

outside the classroom or in an apprenticeship setting, and educator certification. By January 1, 2023, the commissioner must submit recommendations for legislation to, presumably, the Education and Higher Education committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except the pathways programs-related review and reporting provision is effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - APP
Yea 39 Nay 0 (03/11/2022)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/07/2022)