
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5833

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

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to create a program by January 1, 2020, that establishes satellite locations for the regional community-technical colleges' advanced manufacturing centers in up to eight Connecticut public high schools. This program must enroll (1) public high school juniors and seniors to simultaneously earn high school and college credits and an advanced manufacturing certificate while enrolled in high school, beginning in fall 2020, and (2) adults to take classes at the satellite location during evening and weekend hours to earn an advanced manufacturing certificate.

The bill requires BOR to develop an application process and selection criteria for interested local and regional boards of education and their high schools and to explore possible funding mechanisms for the program. Additionally, it prescribes required contents for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between participating boards of education and the community colleges operating the satellite locations.

By January 1, 2021, BOR must begin annually reporting to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee about this program's operation and effectiveness, as well as recommendations for its expansion.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Under the bill, BOR must determine the form and manner by which

a local or regional board of education may apply to have a high school under its jurisdiction participate in the program. A board may apply for solo participation or joint participation with another board.

Additionally, BOR must establish the criteria it will use to select up to eight high schools to participate as satellite locations. The criteria must, at a minimum, prioritize the placement of advanced manufacturing certificate programs in areas of the state that have the following:

1. a need for a workforce trained in advanced manufacturing,
2. economically distressed municipalities,
3. residents who lack access to advanced manufacturing certificate programs near their homes, and
4. sufficient space in a public high school to operate an advanced manufacturing certificate program.

PROGRAM FUNDING

The bill requires BOR to explore the following mechanisms for funding the program: 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.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Under the bill, any board of education that BOR selects to participate in the program must enter into an MOU with the community college that serves the regional area where the board is located. (Presumably, this refers to the regional area where the high school's public school district is located.) The MOU governs the advanced manufacturing satellite location's operations and must address the following, at a minimum:

1. operating hours and staffing levels for the satellite location,

2. standards for student admission and the process for applying to the advanced manufacturing certificate program, and
3. the number of high school and college credits the students enrolled in the advanced manufacturing certificate program may earn after successfully completing the program.

(Presumably, the number of college credits that students may earn must equal the amount of credits required to earn an advanced manufacturing certificate, as the bill requires for high school students.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/14/2019)