
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5833 (as amended by House "A"* and "B"**)

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 an advanced manufacturing certificate program in no more than one Connecticut public high school per year. 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 each subsequent academic year, and (2) adults to 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 bill 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 prescribes required contents for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between participating boards of education and BOR to govern the program's operation at the high school locations.

The bill 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, BOR must begin reporting annually, in consultation with the president of any independent institution of higher education with which the BOR chooses to collaborate, to the

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee about this program's operation and effectiveness, as well as recommendations for its expansion.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill (File 277), which required 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.

**House Amendment "B" replaces House Amendment "A," which (1) required BOR to create a program by January 1, 2020, that expanded advanced manufacturing certificate programs' operation to no more than one Connecticut public high school per year and (2) permitted BOR to collaborate with a private, nonprofit in-state college or university that offers such a certificate program to operate the program at a Connecticut public high school.

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 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 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 and any other relevant agreement with BOR to operate the program at a public high school in the school district. For purposes of such an MOU or other relevant agreement, the bill 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.

The MOU governs the advanced manufacturing certificate program's operations and must address the following, at a minimum:

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.

COLLABORATION WITH INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The bill 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.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/14/2019)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 0 (04/15/2019)