

**HB 1977 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that student access to programs offered at skill centers can help prepare them for careers, apprenticeships, and postsecondary education.

Finds that there are barriers to providing access to students in rural and remote areas but that there are opportunities to do so with satellite and branch campus programs, distance and online learning programs, and collaboration with higher education, business, and labor.

Finds that skill centers provide opportunities for dropout prevention and retrieval programs by offering programs that accommodate students' work schedules and provide credit retrieval opportunities.

Finds that implementing the recommendations from the study by the workforce training and education coordinating board will enhance skill center programs and student access to those programs.