

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5676

As of February 16, 2009

Title: An act relating to middle school career and technical education.

Brief Description: Providing for career and technical education opportunities for middle school students.

Sponsors: Senators McAuliffe, Rockefeller, Jarrett, Fairley, Hobbs, Schoesler and Shin; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/12/09.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Brandon Roché (786-7405)

Background: Current state funding formulas for public schools provide an enhancement for high school students enrolled in career and technical education (CTE) courses approved by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). For the 2008-09 school year, the enhancement amounts to an average of approximately \$900 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student. Legislation enacted in 2007 authorized the same enhancement, to the extent that funds are provided in the operating budget, for middle school CTE programs approved by the OSPI. Middle schools apply for these funds through a grant process administered by the OSPI.

To receive approval from the OSPI as a CTE course, the course must be taught by a teacher with an endorsement in CTE. There are pathways to state certification and endorsement as a CTE teacher that give credit for occupational experience in the particular specialty area of instruction.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): The limitation is removed that a middle school offering career and technical education receives an enhanced funding allocation only within funds appropriated for this purpose. The CTE program must be in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) to qualify for the enhancement. Middle schools

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offering qualifying programs are to be funded at the same level as a high school offering a similar program.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Section 2 authorizing the funding enhancement takes effect September 1, 2009; the remainder of the bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Having programs where our students can apply math and science in real-world situations really brings them to life. The middle schools have not had the money for equipment and supplies necessary for these programs. As a CTE director, it's nice to be able to plan these programs around stable funding rather than a grant we can't be sure we will receive. This bill will help us plan and give us stabilization. Having a coherent plan within schools and districts to ensure that these programs are supported is important. At the developmental stage of middle school students, there is a gap in transitioning to high school. The focus is to provide hands-on opportunities for the kids. When we look at the global market and economy, we need to get more engineers and designers out into the workforce. This bill gets the message out early to our kids. We will be fully implementing instructional technology courses. This program serves girls just as well as boys.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Terry Byington, Tech America; Michael Christianson, Amber Seargent, Stephanie Johns, Ian Chow-Miller, Mitchell King, Bethel School District; Denis Wallace, Yelm Community Schools; John Page, Tacoma Public Schools; Kevin Ikeda, David Lindsiede, Erik O'Brien, Taylor McCann, Meeker Middle School.