

## Senate Education Committee

*Kat Bourque 271-3093*

**SB 101-FN**, relative to enrollment eligibility for regional career and technical education programs.

**Hearing Date:** January 31, 2017

**Time Opened:** 9:01 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:35 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Reagan, Ward, Kahn and Watters

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Giuda

**Bill Analysis:** This bill changes the high school attendance requirement for enrolling in a career and technical education program from 2 years to one year.

**Sponsors :**

Sen. Watters

Sen. Reagan

Sen. Gray

Sen. Innis

Sen. McGilvray

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Gile

Rep. Grenier

Rep. Major

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Watters, Representative Somssich, Representative Gile, Senator Innis, Bruce Farr (Lakes Region Tech.), Barrett Christina (NHSBA), Mike Somers (NHLRA)

**Who opposes the bill:** No one

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Eric Feldborg (DOE), Carl Ladd (NHSAA)

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

*Senator Watters*

*Prime Sponsor*

- This bill amends the regional and career technical education program by allowing sophomores to participate in the program.
- As highlighted in the proposed bill, the bill changes the high school attendance requirement for enrolling in a career and technical education program from two years to one year.
- About four years ago, a commission was put into place to examine career and technical education programs, which worked in coordination with the community college system, to further examine how to expand access to these programs.
- SB 190 came out of this commission and set up an advisory group. The advisory group has been meeting for about a year and has covered a lot of ground.
- It is hopeful that this bill will interest students at an earlier point in their career to look

at career and technical education programs. It is also a hope to get families and guidance counselors interested in these programs.

- Additionally, if students were able to complete most of his or her coursework before senior year, it allows this year to be an internship or some other type of work experience that benefits them after their education is completed. This may also help to keep students in the state rather than having them go elsewhere.
- When the bill was first filed, there was an indeterminable fiscal note. What is at issue here is not the receiving school. There will be no increased cost to them, but to the sending schools. The state formula is that they shall pay 75% of the cost paid for the sending school. The Department of Education has included some money that may take care of this, but we are unsure as to how many students will take advantage of this.
- Senator Reagan asked for more information about the career and technical education programs and what they do. Senator Watters stated that this covers a number of fields such as technology, automotive, nursing, etc. These students are required to fulfill all of the required courses in the curriculum in addition to the career and technical education program. This program is physically within the school.
- Senator Kahn asked Senator Watters to walk through a curriculum that would show how a student could take a course in their sophomore year, an advanced course in junior year, and how senior year would continue to advance the student towards their goal. Senator Watters stated that he would allow others to explain the technical aspects of the program, but that the career technical programs do allow students to go into a more advanced level of the field of their choice.

#### *Bruce Farr*

- Mr. Farr is a principal at Lakes Region Tech.
- The goal used to be that by the time a high school student was a junior, they should start considering a career. Forty years later at present day, we realize that students should be looking at careers much earlier than that. Because this program is only available for juniors and seniors, current law is restricting those who wish to start this process earlier.
- This bill will allow sophomores to begin considering what career path they may wish to take.
- Mr. Farr would agree that removing the restriction for freshmen would be even better, since there is really no reason historically to exclude ninth graders.
- In working with CTE students who realize that they need their academic skills to further the career that they want, they often realize it is too late when high school is over. This bill would allow students to use their senior year to take further classes or opportunities that they now realize will benefit them.
- There is currently a shadowing experience that allows some students to follow someone in the industry in their senior year. This bill would expand this program for students so that they will be in the actual workforce.
- Relative to costs, this is not a mandated cost. Schools can limit the number of

students that they send depending on their budget number already, and this bill will not change that reality.

- Senator Reagan asked whether if we did away with the first year requirement, this does not dictate or require anything for school districts. Mr. Farr said that this was correct.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition : N/A**

**Neutral Information Presented:**

*Eric Feldborg*

*Department of Education*

- The career and technical education programs (CTEs) are within school districts and are not necessarily a separate high school. There are 28 within the state.
- Every CTE, with the exception of two, have districts outside of the CTE area that send students to that CTE.
- Senator Reagan asked who owns the CTEs. Mr. Feldborg explained that the district in which the CTE is in owns the schools. The salaries of the teachers are also paid by the local districts.
- Mr. Feldborg stated that the sending school will make a payment to a receiving school district and then the sending school is eligible for 75% of that bill and submits a reimbursement request to the state.
- Senator Watters stated that, essentially, the sending school is responsible for 25% of the cost to the receiving school. Mr. Feldborg stated that was correct.
- Senator Watters stated that RSA 185 lays out the structure of CTEs. He asked Mr. Feldborg to describe some of the range of programs that are available through CTEs. Mr. Feldborg stated that there are 64 programs across the state that offer everything from accounting to welding. The areas where programs operate have become much broader. Not every center itself offers every program.
- Senator Reagan asked Mr. Feldborg to produce a document for the committee that shows all the centers and programs that are offered.
- Senator Reagan asked if some students are forced to leave their district to take a course at a CTE outside of their district. Mr. Feldborg stated that students have the right to attend a center outside of their region if there is a particular program that they are interested in.
- Senator Reagan asked who pays for the transportation of these students. Mr. Feldborg stated that the transportation is included in the 75%, but would like to double check that it is not the full amount of transportation.
- Senator Watters asked if the skills that the high school students learn are basic and if they would continue to a two-year community college setting. Mr. Feldborg stated that the CTEs are designed to be two-year programs with the amount of information they cover. They also have to give the opportunity for students to earn some college

credit while in the particular program. Every program also has to have a documented agreement with some kind of higher institution, whether it be a two-year college or a four-year college. The programs are designed so that the student will have enough skills to get an entry level job or continue to another place of higher education.

- Senator Reagan asked why the bill should even require one year of high school. It seems as though freshmen should be able to start on this path, too. Mr. Feldborg stated that he would not be opposed to having this extend to first year students as well, but that a freshman's schedule within the high school is usually very structured.
- Senator Kahn stated that he has spent a lot of time with the advanced manufacturing businesses in Cheshire County. So often, the entry level requirement is three years of experience. How would an extension of one year in a CTE help students find their path into the work force easier? Mr. Feldborg stated that the student will choose a particular program because they have interest in that area and see themselves working in that arena. He stated that starting the education in this area earlier will leave options for students who are seniors to intern and learn more about the industry while making connections within the marketplace.

*Carl Ladd*

*New Hampshire School Administrators Association*

- Mr. Ladd stated that NHSAA is neutral on the topic.
- He is a huge supporter of CTE and providing these opportunities for students.
- He has concerns about costs that local districts will have as a result of this bill.
- These costs could include transportation and additional materials for receiving districts.
- It appears, from the fiscal note, that there will be more local costs than not.
- The state has some very small high schools and school districts that may have difficulty adding these additional fees into their budget.
- Senator Reagan asked if Mr. Ladd could provide a specific number for dollars in terms of what this will cost per student. Mr. Ladd stated that the total cost for all students, in his previous role on school board, was \$10,000 for all students who could be sent to a CTE. If the cost, for example was \$2,500 per student, the district could send four students and would be reimbursed 75% of that. The district can only send the number of students that they have a budget for.
- Senator Watters shared Mr. Ladd's concerns. He stated that the local school district still retains the ability to decide how much money that would like to dedicate to CTEs. Mr. Ladd stated that this was correct.

**Future Action:** Pending

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 31, 2017