

Senate Education Committee

Kat Bourque 271-3093

SB 104, establishing a credential for master teacher in school counseling and relative to the membership of regional advisory committees for career and technical education.

Hearing Date: January 31, 2017

Time Opened: 9:36 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:45 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Giuda

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes the credential of master teacher in school counseling. The bill also adds a school counselor as a member of each regional career and technical education advisory committee.

Sponsors :

Sen. Watters

Sen. Carson

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Feltes

Sen. Fuller Clark

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. Kahn

Sen. Lasky

Rep. Grenier

Rep. Burton

Who supports the bill: Senator Lasky, Senator Carson, Senator Fuller Clark, Carl Ladd (NHSAA), Bruce Farr (Lakes Region Tech.), Barrett Christina (NHSBA), Mark Holder (Associated Builders and Contractors), Rep. Somssich

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: Eric Feldborg (DOE)

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Watters

Prime Sponsor

- Senator Watters introduced a replace all amendment, 0140s.
- This bill would establish the credential of master teacher in school counseling. It also would add a school counselor as a member of each regional career and technical education advisory committee.
- After putting in the bill, Senator Watters stated that few teachers take part in the master teacher program, so this may not be relevant.
- Each career within the career and technical education programs (CTEs) have an advisory committee that give advice and connect the programs with the surrounding industry.

- There is also an issue with little time throughout the day for students to visit with guidance counselors, behavior health professionals and the like. This bill requires that the student counseling individuals shall not exceed 1 counselor for every 250 counselors enrolled. This will help counselors learn about technical career education and help to address a growing health crisis in mental health needs for our students.
- With the introduction of this amendment, there is no fiscal note.
- Some schools may realize that they do need additional staff to meet the requirements of this bill.
- Senator Reagan asked if all of the master teacher language has been removed. Senator Watters stated that it has.
- Senator Reagan asked to confirm that the counselor requirement was added in this amendment. Senator Watters stated that this was correct and that the high school guidance was also added to the advisory committees that were previously mentioned.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition : N/A

Neutral Information Presented:

Eric Feldborg

Department of Education

- Mr. Feldborg is available to answer questions of the bill.
- He mentioned that regional advisory committees meet twice a year, so that it will have little impact on a school counselor's time. Twice a year, the advisory committee meets to survey where jobs will be in a certain region to line up the program with where the job needs are.

Future Action: Pending

KAB

Date Hearing Report completed: January 31, 2017