

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled - Revised**

Senate Bill 478 (Senator Hester, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Career and Technical Education Committee - Alterations**

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This bill makes the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee an independent unit within the Maryland Department of Labor, instead of a unit of the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB). It also requires that the CTE Committee (1) include representatives of skilled trade organizations and career colleges; (2) encompass skilled trade organizations and career colleges among the representatives brought together to ensure programs are aligned with the State's economic development and workforce goals and operate with best global practices; and (3) develop a list of skilled trade organization and career college programs and share the list with guidance counselors and public schools for distribution to students. To do so, the CTE Committee may create advisory structures to ensure essential input from skilled trade organizations and career colleges. The bill also repeals the statutory limit of six CTE Committee members jointly appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Delegates; thus, under the bill the CTE Committee does not have a set number of members.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any change in State activities does not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems can distribute a list of specified programs using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 36 of 2021 (Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation) created the CTE Committee as a unit within GWDB. The purpose of the committee is to build an integrated, globally competitive framework for providing CTE to Maryland students in public schools, postsecondary institutions, and the workforce.

The CTE Committee is composed of five members of GWDB and six members jointly appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Delegates. The five members of GWDB are (1) the State Superintendent; (2) the Secretary of Higher Education; (3) the Secretary of Labor; (4) the Secretary of Commerce; and (5) the chair of the Skills Standards Advisory Committee. The six appointed members must collectively represent employers, industry or trade associations, labor organizations, community colleges, the agricultural community, and experts in CTE programming. However, as of April 2022, members of the CTE Committee have not been appointed; the fiscal 2023 operating budget, as enacted, includes \$762,262 in general funds to fund the committee and related activities.

**Additional Comments:** “Career college” is not a defined term in Maryland statute. In Maryland, postsecondary career-oriented education is generally provided through for-credit or noncredit programs at the public community colleges or at private career schools that offer noncredit education programs.

A “private career school” is defined in statute as a privately owned and privately operated institution of postsecondary education other than an institution of higher education that furnishes or offers to furnish a program, whether or not requiring a payment of tuition or fee, for the purpose of training, retraining, or upgrading individuals for gainful employment as skilled or semiskilled workers or technicians in recognized occupations or in new and emerging occupations.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 541 (Delegate Qi, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Commerce; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:**  
rh/clb

First Reader - February 14, 2022

Third Reader - March 31, 2022

Revised - Amendment(s) - March 31, 2022

Revised - Budget Information - March 31, 2022

Enrolled - April 25, 2022

Revised - Amendment(s) - April 25, 2022

Revised - Updated Information - April 25, 2022

Revised - Budget Information - April 25, 2022

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