

Lily Qi
Legislative District 15
Montgomery County

Economic Matters Committee

Chair
Business Regulation Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 223
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3090 · 301-858-3090
800-492-7122 Ext. 3090
Lily.Qi@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 1, 2023

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

HB 143 expands the membership and functions of the Career and Technical Education Committee, which is a unit within the Governor's Workforce Development Board, established by the Blueprint for Maryland's future.

This Committee passed the bill during the 2022 legislative session, and the Senate cross-file made it to the Governor's desk. Unfortunately, the legislation was vetoed. The bill this year reflects the same version of the bill we passed by the House and Senate last year.

There is a well-documented skilled workforce shortage across the US and in Maryland. Despite this, there is significant emphasis on two-year and four-year degrees, but limited information provided to high school students about skilled trade and career school options. We need a pipeline to fill many good jobs with benefits and career pathways. At the same time, the average Maryland college graduate is \$40,000 in debt. By promoting career and trade school options, we are providing a sustainable and quality education option for families and students who find four-year traditional college a risky and uncertain investment.

This legislation has two components:

1. Adds skilled trade organizations and career colleges to the list of advisors on the CTE Committee, bringing the number of CTE Committee members from six to eight. Career colleges are regularly reevaluating their programmatic offerings based on workforce needs. Their ability to forecast these needs and provide feedback on areas with workforce shortages must be integrated into the high school CTE offerings.
2. Requires the CTE Committee to compile a list of all career colleges and skilled trade programs in the State to be provided to guidance counselors for distribution to students in their junior and senior years. This ensures students get a complete understanding of all the available post-secondary educational opportunities. This is particularly important for the 110,000 Maryland students enrolled in CTE courses that can consider ways to continue their career-specific training after high school.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation that will not only help address the workforce shortages our state is facing, but also provide our students with a greater awareness of their post-secondary options. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lily Qi'.

Delegate Lily Qi