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H.B. 4
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor(s): Reps. Richardson and Robinson

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SUMMARY

- Permits the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to develop an industry-recognized credential or a certificate program in response to a petition from an Ohio employer.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Industry-recognized credentials and certificate programs

The bill permits an Ohio employer to petition the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to develop an industry-recognized credential or certificate program, but further specifies that the proposed credential or program must be aligned with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet Ohio's workforce needs.¹

The Office of Workforce Transformation is authorized to develop a credential or program in response to a petition, but must do so in consultation with the Department of Education, the Chancellor of Higher Education, and other stakeholders. In developing a credential or program, the Office of Workforce Transformation may prioritize any credential or program related to a job that is determined to be in-demand under continuing law. The developed credential or program must include any curriculum, standards, or materials determined necessary by the Office of Workforce Transformation.²

Upon completing the development of a credential or a program, the Office of Workforce Transformation must submit it to the Chancellor of Higher Education or the committee regarding industry-recognized credentials and licenses established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Chancellor is permitted to include the developed credential or program

¹ R.C. 6301.22(A).

² R.C. 6301.22(B) and (C).

in the inventory established by the Chancellor under continuing law or for another purpose the Chancellor determines appropriate. Similarly, the committee established by the state Superintendent is permitted to include a developed credential on the list the committee maintains under continuing law.³

Background – industry-recognized credentials and certificates

List developed by state Superintendent’s committee

Under continuing law, the state Superintendent, in collaboration with the Office of Workforce Transformation and the business community, must establish a committee to develop a list of industry-recognized credentials and licenses. The committee must establish criteria for acceptable credentials and licenses that are aligned with the in-demand jobs list published by the Department of Job and Family services and must review and update its list at least once every two years.⁴

The credentials and licenses included in the committee’s list are used as one criterion to help students qualify for a high school diploma using the workforce graduation pathway under continuing law. Additionally, the credentials are used as one factor in calculating the Prepared for Success component of the state report card issued for school districts and buildings, as well as other public schools.⁵

Chancellor’s inventory

The Chancellor is required, under current law, to create an inventory of all credit and noncredit certificate programs and industry-recognized credentials that are aligned with in-demand jobs and offered at Ohio Technical Centers and state institutions of higher education (including state universities, community colleges, state community colleges, technical colleges, and university branch campuses). While awarding funds through the OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan Fund, the Chancellor is required to give a preference to certificate programs included on the inventory that support adult learners.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-16-19

H0004-I-133/ts

³ R.C. 3313.6113(B)(3), 3333.94(B)(2), and 6301.11(D).

⁴ R.C. 3313.6113.

⁵ R.C. 3302.03 and 3313.618, neither in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 3333.94.