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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 4**  
**133rd General Assembly**

## Bill Analysis

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**Version:** As Passed by the House

**Primary Sponsor:** Reps. Richardson and Robinson

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### SUMMARY

- Requires the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to act as a liaison between the business community and the Department of Education or the Chancellor of Higher Education with regard to industry-recognized credentials or certificate programs.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Industry-recognized credentials and certificate programs

The bill requires the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to act as a liaison between the business community and the Department of Education or the Chancellor of Higher Education regarding industry-recognized credentials or certificate programs. Specifically, the Office of Workforce Transformation must accept inquiries from the business community about industry-recognized credentials approved by the committee established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction under continuing law, certificate programs and industry-recognized credentials included in the inventory created by the Chancellor under continuing law, and any other existing or proposed credential or certificate program that the Office determines is necessary to meet Ohio's workforce needs.<sup>1</sup>

In response to the inquiries, the Office of Workforce Transformation must request information from the Department of Education about industry-recognized credentials approved by the state Superintendent's committee or from the Chancellor regarding industry-recognized credentials or certificate programs that are either included in the inventory or offered by private nonprofit institutions of higher education. The Office of Workforce Transformation also must convene a review of an existing or proposed industry-recognized credential or certificate program in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Chancellor, and other

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 6301.22(A).

stakeholders, including regional education providers, determined appropriate by the Office. The Office of Workforce Transformation must submit the findings of the Department of Education or the Chancellor to the business that submitted the inquiry that initiated the review.<sup>2</sup>

The bill stipulates that nothing included in it affects the responsibilities assigned under continuing law to the state Superintendent's committee regarding the approval of industry-recognized credentials or to the Chancellor in creating the inventory.<sup>3</sup>

## **Background – industry-recognized credentials and certificates**

### **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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

### **Chancellor's inventory**

The Chancellor is required, under continuing 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.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 6301.22(B) and (C).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 6301.22(D).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3313.6113, not in the bill.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 3302.03 and 3313.618, neither in the bill.

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3333.94, not in the bill.

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## HISTORY

| Action  | Date     |
|---|----------|
| Introduced                                      | 05-16-19 |
| Reported, H. Economic and Workforce Development | 06-05-19 |
| Passed House (89-0)                             | 06-06-19 |

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