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H.B. 71
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Primary Secondary Education

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Santucci

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Community Connectors Workforce Program designed to connect students to jobs and internships in their communities.
- Requires educational service centers to administer the program, including employing directors in high schools where the program services are offered.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Program oversight

The bill requires the Department of Education to establish and oversee the Community Connectors Workforce Program. However educational service centers (ESCs) are tasked with administering the program for the districts the ESC serves. If the General Assembly appropriates funds for this program, each ESC must employ at least one, but not more than three, directors to work in the high schools an ESC serves. (The bill was introduced prior to the enactment in 2023 of H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly, which renamed the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce.) The ESCs are responsible for determining the appropriate number of directors and any eligibility or application requirements for the directors, except that the bill requires the directors to have experience in job placement, school counseling, or primary and secondary education.¹

¹ R.C. 3301.25(A) and (B).

Director responsibilities

Under the bill, the directors must do all of the following:²

1. Collaborate with OhioMeansJobs and other community partners to identify jobs and internships in the community;
2. Determine the number of students that may participate in the program at the district or school;
3. Create an application and interview process to assess a student's preparedness to participate in the program;
4. At the discretion of the district or school, provide instruction in soft skills and professional skills training, which may be used to qualify a student for the OhioMeansJobs-readiness graduation seal. If a district already offers similar instruction, the director must collaborate with the instructors, other appropriate school officials that have commensurate experience, and professionals who support career development in the school;³
5. Make a report to the ESC and the Department.

Reporting requirements and compliance

The bill requires the program directors to report to the ESC and the Department the following:

1. The number of students participating in the program;
2. The number of students who are placed in jobs or internships through the program; and
3. The number of students who receive soft skills and professional skills training through the director.

Additionally, the bill requires any business or organization that employs a student through the program to comply with minor labor laws.⁴

Funding

The bill appropriates \$8 million from lottery profits for the program in each of FYs 2024 and 2025.

² R.C. 3301.25(C).

³ R.C. 3313.6112, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3301.25(D); R.C. 4109.02, not in the bill.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-27-23
Reported, House Primary Secondary Education	06-28-23
