

HCS HB 1612 -- CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (Swan)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education

This bill requires the State Board of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish minimum requirements for a career and technical education (CTE) certificate that a student can earn in addition to his or her high school diploma. Students entering high school in the 2017-18 school year and thereafter must be eligible to earn a CTE certificate.

The bill requires the state board to establish CTE requirements intended to provide students with the necessary technical employability skills to be prepared for an entry-level career in a technical field or additional training in a technical field. These provisions must not be considered a means for tracking students, meaning separating pupils by academic ability into groups for all subjects or certain classes and curriculum, in order to impel students to particular vocational, career, or college paths.

Each local school district must strive to offer programs of study that are economically feasible for students in the district. In establishing CTE offerings, the district may rely on standards, technical coursework, and skills assessments for industry-recognized certificates or credentials.

No later than January 1, 2017, the department must develop a process for recognition of a school district's career and technical education program that offers a career and technical education certificate.

This bill is similar to HB 380 (2015).