

HB 1660 -- CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass- Consent" by the Consent and House Procedure Committee by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill allows school districts to rely on technical coursework and skills assessments developed for industry-recognized certificates and credentials when entering into the partnerships current law authorizes for implementing programs for students to obtain career and technical education, internships or apprenticeships, and industry certification or credentials while in high school.

The bill requires the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council to annually review, update, approve, and recommend a list of industry certifications, state-issued professional licenses, and occupational competency assessments. A school district may use the list as a resource in establishing programs of study that meet their regional workforce needs under Section 170.029, RSMo.

The bill also modifies the composition of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council by adding the Director of the Department of Economic Development or his or her designee.

This bill is the same as HB 253 (2017) and is similar to HB 188 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this will help students be ready to work in specific areas or continue with specialized training after graduation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education; JG Circle of Hope; School Administrators Coalition; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Linda Rallo, Alliance for Childhood Education; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri State Teacher's Association; and Missouri Education Reform Council.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.