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Subject: House Education Committee Approves Technical Education and Career Readiness Bill Package
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Members,

PACTA was present at the House Education Committee Meeting held yesterday, below please find a summary of the meeting. The Committee approved a package of Technical Education and Career Readiness bills.

Chairman David Hickernell (R-Lancaster) explained that the package of bills before the committee today is based on the recommendations of the Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness that held hearings last session. "We spent a considerable time working in a bipartisan fashion on these bills," he stated. "I'd like to thank Chairman Roebuck and his staff and our staff and all the members who worked on this package. It's a great to be able to advance these bills today."

Minority Chairman James Roebuck (D-Philadelphia) echoed the comments of Chairman Hickernell. "It's a good package of bills, it's a bipartisan effort, and it's a positive step forward," he stated.

HB 2155 Bloom, Stephen - (PN 3276) Amends the Public School Code further providing for vocational instructional certificate. Adds language directing the State Board of Education to require an applicant for a vocational instructional certificate to present evidence of at least four years of wage-earning experience in the occupation to be taught in order for the Secretary of Education to grant the applicant the certificate. Further provides the board shall not require an applicant to have completed more than 18 credit hours in an approved program of vocational teacher education in order for the secretary to grant the applicant a certificate which shall entitle the individual to teach for eight annual school terms. Also provides the board shall not require an applicant to have completed more than 60 total credit hours in an approved program of vocational teacher education to be granted a Vocational Instructional II Certificate. Requires the Department of Education to form a professional advisory committee to review vocational instructional certification program guidelines every five years. Effective in 60 days. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

Rep. Stephen Bloom (R-Cumberland), prime sponsor of the bill, noted that the

impetus for the legislation came from career and technical students who visited the Capitol last year. "They told me about the need and said they were losing teachers due to the situation with the certification requirements," he stated. "House Bill 2155 reduces the barriers to certification of career and technical education (CTE) teachers in order to increase the number of CTE teachers in the classroom."

HB 2156 Tobash, Mike - (PN 3277) Amends the Public School Code adding a new article establishing the Career and Technical Education Partnership Tax Credit Program to expand access to high-career and technical education by encouraging private investment in education, career and technical education programs and the repair, upkeep, replacement and upgrading of industry-grade materials and instructional equipment. Provides for qualification and application by organizations; application by business firms; tax credits; limitations; lists; guidelines; school participation in program; scholarships; carryover, carryback, refund and assignment; and original jurisdiction. Further provides the total aggregate amount of all approved tax credits for contributions from business firms shall not exceed \$15 million in a fiscal year. Requires the Department of Community and Economic Development to submit an annual report summarizing the effectiveness of the tax credit to the chairs and minority chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees. Also provides the new article shall apply to taxable years commencing December, 31, 2018. Effective immediately. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

Rep. Mike Tobash (R-Schuylkill), prime sponsor of the legislation, thanked the chairmen for moving the package of bills and explained that the bill focuses on public-private partnerships. "This bill uniquely focuses tax credits, the ability for businesses to invest in exactly what they're looking for their education system to produce in order for them to grow their businesses in the state of Pennsylvania," he stated.

HB 2157 Grove, Seth - (PN 3278) Amends the Public School Code adding language requiring the Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence to issue guidelines and update the guidelines every five years to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes an academic course, program or activity for credit may apply the credit toward completion of an agriculture education program. Requires the Department of Education to issue guidelines and update the guidelines every five years to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes a course, program or activity in science, technology, engineering or mathematics for credit may apply the credit toward the completion of a course, program or activity offered by any area vocational-technical school, technical institute or vocational school or department. Also requires the department to establish a standard application form for a public school entity seeking approval to establish or renew a classification of program code. Effective in 60 days. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

Rep. Seth Grove (R-York), chairman of the Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness, emphasized the importance of career and technical education and thanked the chairmen for moving the legislation. "House Bill 2157 simply provides flexibility for our school districts," he stated. "If there is a new job being created, new industry being created, it allows flexibility for career and tech education to provide a new program in state law."

HB 2158 Mako, Zachary (F) - (PN 3285) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for career information and recruitment. The bill establishes that school entities shall seek participation of representatives of skilled trades, area career and technical education schools, institutions of higher education, business, industry, charitable institutions or other employers regarding employment, employment training or education opportunities. Effective in 60 days. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

HB 2159 Staats, Craig - (PN 3279) Amends the Public School Code adding language requiring all public schools, the Rural Regional College, state-related institutions, and the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology to submit their articulation agreements to the Department of Education to be included in the department's electronic database and portal that displays articulation agreements entered into by community colleges, the institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and institutions that elect to participate. Effective in 60 days. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

Rep. Craig Staats (R-Bucks), prime sponsor of the bill, explained that the legislation expands the Department of Education's database of articulation agreements to include state-related institutions, accredited rural regional colleges, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, and public schools.

HB 2203 Harkins, Patrick - (PN 3286) Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, providing for an online career resource center. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a central online clearinghouse which shall at a minimum include an online database of the following: postsecondary pathways and options; career and technical education and workforce; career pathways; data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation; statewide and regional articulation agreements; and other relevant career resources. Effective immediately. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

Rep. Pat Harkins (D-Erie), minority chairman of Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness, thanked the committee for moving the package of

legislation. "House Bill 2203 directs the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Agriculture, to create and annually update an easily accessible online clearinghouse that includes postsecondary pathways and options; career and technical education and workforce opportunities; career pathways; data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation; statewide and regional articulation agreements; and other relevant career resources," he stated.

HB 2204 Mullery, Gerald - (PN 3252) Amends the Public School Code adding a new section requiring the Department of Education, no later than January 1, 2019, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Industry, to conduct an inventory to determine the number and types of workforce development programs offered at secondary and postsecondary institutions. Allows the department to compile a clearinghouse of model programs discovered during the inventory. Provides the department shall encourage the use of the model programs by secondary career and technical education programs, postsecondary programs and business and industry. Also requires the department to report its findings and actions to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees. Effective in 60 days. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

Rep. Gerald Mullery (D-Luzerne), prime sponsor of the legislation, explained that the bill would require the Department of Labor and Industry to conduct a complete inventory of existing workforce development programs offered at secondary and postsecondary institutions. "My legislation creates a one-stop shop for our stakeholders," he stated.

HB 2205 Roebuck, James - (PN 3330) Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, further providing for advisory committees by requiring that an occupational advisory committee be established for each career and technical education program or cluster of related career and technical education programs offered by an area vocational-technical school or school district. The occupational advisory committee shall be appointed by the board of directors of the area vocational-technical school or school district, as applicable. A majority of the members of the occupational advisory committee shall be employees and employers in the occupation for which the career and technical education program is provided. Each occupational advisory committee shall meet at least twice each year to: (1) advise the board of directors, administrators and staff on curriculum, equipment, instructional materials, safety requirements, program evaluation and other related matters; and (2) verify that the programs meet industry standards and, if appropriate, licensing board criteria, and that the programs prepare students with occupation-related competencies. To increase employer participation in an occupational advisory committee, the boards of directors of multiple area vocational-technical schools or school districts operating career and technical education programs may agree to establish a shared occupational advisory committee to serve all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts,

provided that all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts are located within the same intermediate unit. If a shared occupational advisory committee is formed, the occupational advisory committee shall be designed to provide equal opportunities for all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts to participate, including scheduling meetings at each area vocational-technical school or school district on a rotating basis. Effective in 60 days. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

Chairman Roebuck, prime sponsor of the legislation, explained that the bill would require career and technical education programs to establish Occupational Advisory Committees (OACs). "The establishment of these committees will help to improve the effectiveness of local councils establishing new programs and reduce the burden on local industries and school districts to establish viable OACs on their own," he stated.

HB 2206 Roebuck, James - (PN 3331) Amends the Workforce development Act, in local workforce investment areas and boards, adding that membership shall include at least one local administrator of a career and technical center. Effective in 60 days. - **The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee.**

Chairman Roebuck, prime sponsor of the legislation, said the bill adds at least one local administrator of a career and technical center to a local workforce development board. "This legislation will ensure that local communications with workforce development boards is consistent across the commonwealth and improve the delivery of their technical programs," he stated.

The bills now head to the full House for its consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We'll continue to keep you apprised.



This e-mail was sent from Pennsylvania Association Of Career & Technical Administrators (jackie@pacareertech.org) to tbirchard@ects.org.



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