

HCS HB 2038 -- WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Patterson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 10 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2038.

This bill establishes the "Workforce Diploma Program". Before August 16, 2021, and annually thereafter, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) must submit a request for interested program providers for the program. An approved program provider must meet a list of qualifications, including but not limited to being an accredited high school diploma-granting entity and having a minimum of two years experience providing adult dropout recovery services.

Every year, DESE must announce the approved programs before October 16th. The approved program providers shall begin enrolling students starting before November 15th of each year. DESE shall pay, upon appropriation, the approved program providers for the specified milestones provided to each student: \$250 for the completion of each half unit of high school credit, \$250 for attaining an employability skills certification, \$250 for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring no more than 50 hours of training, \$500 for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring at least 51 but no more than 100 hours of training, \$750 for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring more than 100 hours of training, and \$1,000 for attaining an accredited high school diploma.

No approved program provider shall receive funding if that provider receives federal or state funding or private tuition for the student. DESE must provide a written update to approved program providers by the last calendar day of each month.

Before July 16th of each year, each provider must report certain metrics, specified in this section, to DESE. The bill requires each approved provider to conduct a survey of each individual who graduated from the approved program and submit the results to DESE before September 16th of each year beginning the year after the individual graduates and the next four consecutive years.

The survey must include the individual's employment status, hourly wages, access to employer-sponsored health care, and any

postsecondary enrollment the individual has completed including a postsecondary certificate or degree program.

Upon the second fiscal year of the program, the department must review the metrics for each program provider and determine whether each provider is meeting the minimum performance standards. If a program provider does not meet the minimum standards for two consecutive years, that provider will be removed from the approved provider list.

This bill also creates a "Workforce Diploma Program Fund".

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the purpose of the bill is to create a framework for an adult workforce diploma. This bill was also created to help increase Missourians' employability and create a better workforce. Supporters say that Missouri needs to improve workforce development and that this bill aligns to achieve a workforce development goal. This bill will help people meet their full potential and create an avenue for people who do not have a high school diploma.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Patterson; Graduation Alliance; Erin Luper, Graduation Alliance; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry;.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill sets up an expectation that a student will get a list of services that they may not ever receive. Opponents testified that most people with no high school diploma are working. They further testified that this bill will not achieve the workforce development goal properly and that the real interest is to fill job vacancies.

Testifying against the bill was MERS/Goodwill Industries of Eastern Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that a bill is creating an opportunity for more people to earn a high school diploma.

Testifying on the bill were MERS/Goodwill Industries of Eastern Missouri; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and , Missouri Community College Association.