

HCS HB 331 -- CAREER-TECH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Kelley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 331.

Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, this bill creates the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program" and the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program Fund".

This Program is for students who have met the GPA, attendance, and service requirements for the A+ Program and are eligible for reimbursement of tuition, books, and fees, and are attending an approved institution of postsecondary education, as defined in the bill, for an eligible program of study or specified training program.

The bill provides reimbursement for students for one certificate program or completion of a program of study or until a student has completed 150% of the time usually required to complete such a program.

This bill is similar to HB 1569 (2024) and HB 76 (2023).

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this program would fill a gap between high school and the "Fast Track Program" and provide much needed resources for students interested in alternatives to two-year or Technical schools. The types of certificates that this program is addressing are in areas of high demand.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Kelley; Missouri National Education Association; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.