

Senate Education Committee

Ava Hawkes 271-4151

HB 304, establishing a committee to study the funding of tuition and transportation for career technical education.

Hearing Date: March 16, 2021

Time Opened: 10:28 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:37 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Hennessey, Ricciardi, Kahn and Prentiss

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a committee to make recommendations relative to tuition and transportation funding of career technical education.

Sponsors:

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Cordelli

Rep. Shaw

Rep. Allard

Rep. Hill

Rep. Umberger

Sen. Bradley

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. Reagan

Sen. Kahn

Who supports the bill: Senator Erin Hennessey, Senator John Reagan, Representative Rick Ladd, Representative John Potucek, Carl Ladd, Robert Johnson

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: Robin Vogt

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Rick Ladd – Grafton, District 4

- Representative Ladd introduced HB 304.
- This bill's intent has been an item of discussion for years.
- When looking at the delivery of an adequate education, you are looking at approximately 14 indicators identified in statute.
- Three of those indicators deal directly with CTE.
- The inspiration for this legislation is due to the fact that we know communities throughout our state receive absolutely no tuition money, by way of this funding pool, for CTE.

- School districts with CTE centers in their districts are of focus seeing that they receive no funding all while CTE centers are within their districts, Manchester is a good example.
- There is roughly \$9 million dollars allocated for transportation and tuition reimbursement.
- The transportation costs are always the first to be taken care of, which are based upon ten cents, per mile, per student. This adds up to roughly \$680,000.
- The remaining monies is split up for tuition purposes. This is based on the 25% paid by local community and 75% of what is remaining of the \$9 million. These numbers are often prorated.
- Tuition costs vary greatly throughout the state, they are based more on operational costs of CTE centers.
- There are even CTE centers in bordering places in VT that serve NH students.
- Over the last year, there has been great discussion as to whether CTE centers should be referenced as categorical revenue and become a part of the adequacy formula.
- We need to start addressing how we will serve these districts who receive no funding.
- For instance, Manchester must absorb those costs. Huge problem in how we fund.
- Only 14% of our high school population participates in CTE programs. That is low.
- Comparatively based on population, 59% of Delaware high school students participate in CTE programs.
- CTE centers should not be compared to vocational programs of the past, i.e. birdhouse making.
- CTE centers are highly skilled and technically driven.
- The House's recommendation on this bill was unanimous.
- Senator Kahn asked Representative Ladd about committee membership.
Representative Ladd said he hopes to see folks with expertise and know-how on the committee.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 18, 2021