



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

John Rau

H.B. 296

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Barnes, Antonio, Foley, Garland, Letson, Patmon, Reece, Wachtmann, Yuko

BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes the Chancellor of the Board of Regents to approve career-technical planning districts to award associate degrees to high school students and adult learners.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill permits the Chancellor of the Board of Regents to approve career-technical planning districts to offer associate degree programs for both high school students and adult learners that are substantially similar to associate degree programs offered by community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges (see "**Career-technical planning districts**," below). Under the bill, the Chancellor must establish standards and protocols for approval of those degree programs, including:

- (1) Specification of the types of associate degrees that career-technical planning districts may offer;
- (2) Minimum requirements for associate-degree courses; and
- (3) Qualifications that a district must meet, including accreditation requirements for each type of associate degree authorized.¹

Each district with an approved degree-granting program must submit an annual report about the program to the Chancellor. The bill also requires a district to pay to the Chancellor a fee, prescribed by a rule adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act, for the review of the district's application to award associate degrees and for further

¹ R.C. 3333.07 and 3333.43(B) and (C).

reviews the Chancellor may determine are necessary after examining the district's annual report.²

Finally, the bill requires the Chancellor to establish criteria, policies, and procedures for a student's transfer of credits for courses completed through an associate degree program offered by a career-technical planning district to a state institution of higher education "without unnecessary duplication or institutional barriers."³ The Chancellor has already developed a career-technical transfer assurance guide to advise high school students as to which of their credits may transfer to state institutions of higher education.⁴ The guide is similar to one developed by the Chancellor to advise students transferring from two-year to four-year state institutions of higher education.

Career-technical planning districts

A career-technical planning district, as defined by the bill, is a school district or group of school districts designated by the Department of Education as responsible for the planning and provision of career-technical education to students within the district or group of districts.⁵ According to the Department's web site, there are 91 designated career-technical planning districts, including (1) joint vocational school districts, (2) groups of school districts that contract with each other for career-technical education services (commonly called "compact districts" or "contract districts"), and (3) some single city or local school districts (commonly called "comprehensive districts").⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	07-12-11

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² R.C. 3333.43(C) and (D).

³ R.C. 3333.43(E).

⁴ At the Chancellor's home page (<http://www.ohiohighered.org/>), click on "Educators," then on "Credit Transfer," and finally on "Career-Technical Credit Transfer (CT)."² Or, at the Department of Education home page (<http://education.ohio.gov/>), click on "Career-Tech," and under "Educators," click on "Statewide Credit Transfer."

⁵ R.C. 3333.43(A).

⁶ The Department has posted online a spreadsheet of career-technical planning districts, showing which school districts constitute each. At the Department's home page (<http://education.ohio.gov/>), click on "Career-Tech," then on "Compliance, Funding," and then on "Career-Tech Planning Districts."