



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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February 10, 2016

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 734/Senate Bill 642: Career and Workforce Education Pilot Program

Assembly Bill 734 was introduced on January 15, 2016, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Education. The Committee held a public hearing on January 28, 2016, and recommended the bill for passage on February 4, 2016, by a vote of 14 to 1. Assembly Bill 734 would create a pilot program reimbursing the Board of Control of a Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) for eligible expenses associated with hiring a career and workforce education coordinator and establishing a career and workforce education program.

Senate Bill 642 (identical to AB 734) was introduced on January 27, 2016, and referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The Committee held a public hearing on February 2, 2016.

CURRENT LAW

Current law authorizes CESAs to provide leadership, coordination, and educational services to school districts, and other educational institutions, and to facilitate communication and cooperation among all public and private schools, agencies, and organizations that provide services to pupils. The 12 CESAs, known by their numerical designation given by DPI, cover the entire state, although a school district can withdraw from the CESA covering their geographic area. Each CESA is governed by a Board of Control composed of school board members from area districts, who are elected annually by a vote of the CESA's member school districts.

SUMMARY OF BILLS

The bills would establish a career and workforce education pilot program under which the Board of Control of a CESA would be eligible for reimbursement of eligible expenses of up to \$125,000 in each of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years. The bills define eligible expenses to include the salary paid to a career and workforce education coordinator hired to implement the pilot program, and programming and travel expenses related to career and workforce education.

Under the bills, the State Superintendent would be required to solicit applications from CESA Boards and work in cooperation with the Department of Workforce Development to select one applicant to participate in the program. The State Superintendent would then be required to submit the selected Board's application to the Joint Committee on Finance for consideration under the Committee's next quarterly meeting under s. 13.10, along with a request to release funds for the program held in the Committee's supplemental appropriation. Upon approval of the State Superintendent's request, the Committee would be required to release the funds to a new appropriation created for the career and workforce education pilot program.

Under the bills, the career and workforce education coordinator would be responsible for the following: (a) workforce education; (b) business development outreach; (c) coordination between businesses and school boards of school districts within the CESA; (d) apprenticeship and job training opportunity advancement; and (e) preparation and submission of an electronic report to the State Superintendent at the end of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years evaluating the implementation and efficacy of the pilot program. The report would also be required to include a financial statement showing eligible expenses incurred for the implementation of the pilot program. Upon receiving the report, the State Superintendent would be required to reimburse the Board for eligible expenses incurred under the program, and transfer any unexpended and unencumbered funds to the Committee's supplemental appropriation.

The bills would provide an additional \$125,000 GPR in the Committee's supplemental appropriation in 2016-17 for the program.

FISCAL EFFECT

As noted above, AB 734 and SB 642 would provide \$125,000 in the Joint Committee on Finance's supplemental appropriation in 2016-17. In their agency fiscal estimate, staff for the Department of Public Instruction indicate that the resources required to administer the program could be absorbed within the agency's budget.

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