



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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CTE Bill Clears the State House

CTE Bill Moves to Senate Rules: In a 110-0 vote, the N.C. House on April 4th approved and sent to the Senate a bill, the “Future Ready Student Act of 2017,” that would expand CTE, award competitive grants of up to \$5 million and broaden CTE to some lower grades.

[House Bill 450](#), which was tweaked slightly on the House floor, was sent to the Senate and then referred to the Senate Rules Committee. NCACTE strongly supports the measure. The bill – as noted in a [legislative summary](#) – also would establish business advisory councils as well as:

- Establish the CTE Expansion Program: Effective upon appropriation of funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Program would expand CTE by prioritizing the inclusion of students in 6th and 7th grade through grants administered by the NC Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.

-Funding: Used to award competitive grants in a total amount of **up to \$5 million** to be allocated as non-reverting funds to an LEA over seven years. Funds would be used only for employing additional licensed personnel in CTE areas, career development coordination areas, and support services to **expand CTE to 6th and 7th graders**, and maybe used for multiple schools in an LEA.

- Award of Grants: LEAs must include the in applications (1) a plan for expansion of the CTE program to 6th and 7th graders, including specific programs to be expanded, the significance of CTE in the LEA, and how the grade expansion would enhance the education program and the community; (2) a request for funds description of how the funds would be used, and other sources of funds available for the program and (3) a proposed 7-year budget with details on use of funds to add personnel, increase CTE efforts, and provide support services; (4) a meaningful strategy.

In addition, H450 establishes CTE requirements that such education be available to all students, with priority for students in grades 8-12. The bill – sponsored by **Reps. Horn, Johnson, Dixon, and Williams** – would also make these changes:

- Update CTE statutes to replace “vocational” with “career” to consistently use CTE throughout Chapter 115C.
- Establish work-based opportunities, requiring local boards of education to offer, as part their CTE instruction, at least 2 work-based learning opportunities involving on-the-job training through an internship, cooperative education or apprenticeship program.
- Encourage career awareness program, from students in grades 5 to educate students on available CTE education programs, with local boards of education that adopt such programs required to report student outcomes to the State Board of Education annually by Oct. 1.
- Establish Business Advisory Councils to identify economic and workforce development trends related to training and education needs of the local community and “advocate for strong local CTE programs.”

Before the bill cleared the Senate, the House approved, 110-0, an amendment offered by [Rep. Mike Clampitt](#) that makes technical changes to courses taken by high school students and tweaks existing law for academic transition pathways for eligible junior and senior high school students. [Click here to see the approved amendment.](#)

Committee Action: In recent days, the bill unanimously passed through the House Committee on Education – K-12 and then the Committee on Education – Community Colleges. The action followed lively discussions, led by [Rep. Craig Horn](#), who said that the construction trades, for example, have thousands of jobs currently available.

“We are all aware that every student may not want to pursue a bachelorette degree,” Horn said in an April 4th meeting of the Committee on Education – Community Colleges.

Horn noted that the bill calls for “CTE awareness” to begin being promoted in the fifth grade. “This will open their eyes to a plethora of options so they enter middle school with an open mind,” he said.

Thanking Legislators: Please take a moment to thank legislators for their support of CTE generally and encourage them to vote for House Bill 450. To confirm [who your legislators are click here.](#) For contact info, click to the links for members of the [House](#) and the [Senate.](#)

Other Legislative News

Long House Days Before Easter Break: House leaders advised members last week that they were in for a couple of long work days ahead of the anticipated Easter recess starting Wednesday. The legislature’s crossover deadline -- the day by which the majority of bills that don't raise or spend money must pass either the House or the Senate in order to remain live – is April 27.

Although there are ways to work around the deadline, rank-and-file lawmakers typically make a big push to get their policy bills through one chamber or the other by that date.

With the early part of this year's session focused on debate over HB2, and what amounts to a one-week recess coming up, the House is staring down a backlog of bills.

On Monday, the House was to convene at 5 p.m. today, two hours earlier than usual, and begin working right away. The Senate convened at 4 p.m. today, but won't hold floor votes until 7 p.m. Senate Appropriations is expected to handle several local bills tonight.

Quote of the Week

“To concentrate intensely for 4 and a half hours, that's too hard for me. Too tiring. I concentrate 'lo maximo' on the 'golpe,' the stroke, but between strokes I'm interacting with the crowd or laughing with my caddie, talking about the spectators..”

- Sergio Garcia, Winner of the 2017 Masters Golf Tourney in Augusta on Sunday

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