
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 135

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM.

SUMMARY

This bill transfers the responsibility for fulfilling various duties from the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) board to the system's executive director. By law, unchanged by the bill, the board advises the CTECS executive director and superintendent. The bill makes the executive director, rather than the board, responsible for:

1. developing various existing plans, such as the five-year long-range plan of CTECS priorities and goals;
2. reporting biennially on the demographic information of CTECS applicants, students enrolled, and a summary of the capital and operating expenditures; and
3. maintaining a rolling three-year capital improvement and capital equipment plan.

The bill also removes the board chairperson from the existing annual meeting with the Education, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Labor and Public Employees committees to report on various CTECS matters.

Additionally, the bill makes various changes to the selection process and responsibilities of the CTECSs superintendent, including:

1. allowing the board to recommend multiple candidates for the role at one time;
2. removing the superintendent's three-year term limit; and
3. requiring the executive director, rather than the superintendent,

to arrange the student transportation annual inspection.

The bill also (1) removes the requirement for the system's executive director to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) on all gifts, grants, or donations and (2) makes technical and other minor changes (§ 5).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except for (1) some technical and minor changes, which are effective from passage (§ 5) and (2) the provisions related to (a) eliminating the quarterly reporting on all gifts, grants, or donations (§ 7) and (b) reporting on the performance of each technical education and career school and some changes to the board's authority (§ 8), which are effective July 1, 2026.

§ 1 — ANNUAL REPORTING AND MEETING REQUIREMENT

Under current law, the CTECS board chairperson, superintendent, and executive director must meet every year with the Education, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Labor and Public Employees committees to report on various matters including curriculum, CTECS graduates' employment status, workforce alignment, and staffing within CTECS.

The bill removes the board chairperson from this process. It also removes the requirement for this annual reporting to include recommendations for the board to carry out.

§ 2 — CTECS PLANS AND PROGRAMS

The bill transfers certain planning duties to the executive director, while program reauthorization and consideration of new programs remains with the board.

Five-Year Plan and Three-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Beginning January 1, 2030, the bill transfers the responsibility for developing the five-year plan of priorities and goals for CTECS from the board to the executive director. The bill (1) eliminates the requirement that the board adopt the five-year plan and (2) requires the executive director, rather than the board, to submit it to the General Assembly. The bill also eliminates the requirement that the State Board of

Education use the plan when it is preparing its own five-year comprehensive plan.

Additionally, under the bill, the executive director, rather than the board, must maintain a rolling three-year capital improvement and capital equipment plan and report it annually to the General Assembly.

Program Reauthorization and New Trade Program Consideration

By law, the board must evaluate existing trade programs during the five-year period to consider them for reauthorization. The bill (1) requires the executive director, rather than the board, to establish the program evaluation schedule and (2) eliminates the requirement for the board to consult with the trade program advisory committee before reauthorizing a trade program.

By law, trade program reauthorization criteria include projected employment demand for students enrolled in the program, including graduates' employment during the preceding five years; anticipated technology changes; and the availability of qualified instructors.

Regarding consideration of new programs, the bill changes this from solely the board's responsibility and instead requires the executive director and superintendent of CTECS to jointly recommend new trade programs to the board for consideration.

§§ 3 & 4 — BIENNIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill transfers from the board to the executive director the responsibility for the existing biennial summary report on the demographic information of applicants, students enrolled, and a summary of the capital and operating expenditures.

§ 6 — SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION PROCESS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND EVALUATION

Selection and Evaluation

By law, the CTECS superintendent is responsible for the operation, supervision, and administration of the technical education and career high schools and all other matters relating to vocational, technical, technological, and postsecondary education in the system.

By law, the executive director hires the superintendent. Current law requires the board to recommend a superintendent candidate to the executive director. The bill allows the board to recommend multiple candidates for the role at one time and eliminates a provision that requires the board to recommend another candidate if the executive director rejects a candidate for superintendent. It also eliminates requirements for the (1) superintendent to have a three year term that the executive director may extend for another three years after consulting with the board and (2) executive director, in consultation with the board, to annually evaluate the superintendent's performance.

Responsibilities

Current law requires the superintendent, in consultation with the executive director, to develop and revise as needed, operational policies for the schools and programs offered. The bill instead requires the superintendent to recommend policies and offerings to the executive director.

§§ 7 & 8 — OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

New School Performance Report (§ 8)

The bill eliminates the requirement for the board to establish specific achievement goals for students at each grade level in the CTECS schools and measure performance at each school. The bill instead requires the executive director and superintendent to annually publish a report on the performance of each technical education and career school.

Quarterly Reports to OPM (§ 7)

The bill removes the requirement for the system's executive director to submit quarterly reports to OPM concerning all gifts, grants, or donations.

§ 8 — BOARD DUTIES AND AUTHORITY ELIMINATED

The bill removes the following authority and duties of the board:

1. authority to create advisory boards,
2. duty to recommend policies to the executive director and

superintendent on student attraction and retention (it instead requires the board to recommend strategies on the topic and provide information on industry trends), and

3. authority to govern student admission.

§§ 9-11 — OTHER DUTIES TRANSFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Education and Work Experience Plan for Children in Post-Conviction Justice System Custody (§ 9)

The bill transfers responsibility for developing a plan regarding vocational and technical education and work training for children in post-conviction justice system custody from the board to the executive director and superintendent.

Critical Construction Trade Identification and Trade List Revisions (§ 10)

The bill transfers, from the board to the executive director and superintendent, responsibility for (1) identifying additional critical construction trades as necessary and (2) revising the critical construction trade list.

Transportation Annual Inspection (§ 11)

The bill transfers responsibility for arranging the student transportation annual inspection from the superintendent to the executive director.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 44 Nay 1 (02/27/2026)