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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 188 (Substitute S-4 as reported by the Committee of the Whole)
Sponsor: Senator Gerald Van Woerkom
Committee: Education

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code, effective July 1, 2007, to do the following:

- Allow an intermediate school district (ISD) to acquire equipment necessary for the operation of ISD programs, and pay for that equipment with operating funds.
- Refer to "career and technical education" instead of "vocational-technical education".
- Expand the purposes for which an ISD may spend vocational-technical (or career and technical) education funds.
- Require an ISD to obtain State approval to use State or Federal career and technical education (CTE) funds, or vocational education millage revenue that was commingled with State or Federal funds.
- Require an ISD that used State or Federal CTE funds to submit its CTE plan to the Department of Education (DOE), establish a program advisory committee for its program, collect data on the program, and distribute the data to the DOE and the committee.
- Require an ISD to collaborate with a community college within its borders if the college offered career and technical education programs.
- Require the DOE to develop a process for expediting State approval of programs that recognize local workforce needs and certain other changes in market demands.
- Prohibit a constituent district or community college from disposing of an area vocational-technical education facility without the consent of the ISD board, if the ISD had provided at least 90% of the cost of acquiring or constructing the facility.
- Require an ISD to publish any audit results concerning the area career and technical education program on its website for at least six months.
- Set a deadline of August 1, 2007, on a current requirement that the DOE and the Department of Treasury develop and make available to ISDs a definition of area vocational technical education (or CTE, under the bill) program operating purposes.

MCL 380.3 et al.

Legislative Analyst: Curtis Walker

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department of Education could incur some small increased administrative costs due to the required development of a process for expedited State approval of programs that recognize local workforce needs, emerging technologies, and local demand occupations.

By allowing career and technical education funding and vocational education millage revenue to be used for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of buildings, land, equipment, and supplies, the bill would free up operating funds that now must be devoted for those purposes, thereby providing more flexibility.

Intermediate school districts could see some increased administrative costs associated with establishing program advisory committees, publishing audits on ISD websites, and collecting and distributing CTE information and data, if these activities are not already undertaken.

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Analysis available @ <http://www.michiganlegislature.org>

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