

Legislative Analysis



USE OF CTE CURRICULUM TO FULFILL FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

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Senate Bill 171 as referred to second House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Jim Stamas

1st House Committee: Education

2nd House Committee: Ways and Means

Senate Committee: Education and Career Readiness

Complete to 7-21-20

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 171 would remove a graduation deadline for students to fulfill their foreign language graduation requirement by completing a career and technical education (CTE) program or curriculum approved by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) or by completing visual or performing arts instruction.

2014 PA 208 (HB 4465) instituted the ability for part or all of the foreign language requirement in the Michigan Merit Curriculum to be met by completing an MDE-approved CTE program or curriculum or by completing visual or performing arts instruction. That ability was extended to students graduating from high school in 2015 to 2020, with subsequent acts extending it as far as those students graduating in 2024. The bill would remove the deadline entirely.

Additionally, the bill would remove the reporting requirement instituted by 2018 PA 232 (SB 175)¹ that currently requires a school district or public school academy (PSA, or charter school) to report both of the following, beginning September 1, 2018, and yearly thereafter:

- The number of students who partially or fully fulfilled one foreign language credit by completing an MDE-approved CTE program or curriculum in the previous school year.
- The number of students who partially or fully fulfilled one foreign language credit by completing visual or performing arts instruction in the previous school year.

MCL 380.1278a

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 171 would result in a minimal cost savings for MDE and for school districts and PSAs.

¹ House Fiscal Agency analysis of 2018 PA 232 (SB 175): <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2017-2018/billanalysis/House/pdf/2017-HLA-0175-DB2D6B57.pdf>

MDE would save the administrative costs of collecting a report from school districts and PSAs regarding the number of pupils who partially or fully fulfilled one credit in a language other than English by completing comparable coursework in CTE or visual or performing arts.

School districts and PSAs would save the administrative costs of tracking and complying with the reporting requirements.

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Supporters indicated that the current flexibility in the Michigan Merit Curriculum—allowing the foreign language requirement to be met by CTE coursework—allows students who know that their interests lie in a certain area to plan and prepare for career goals while still in high school.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified in support of the bill (2-25-20):

Laingsburg High School
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan School Counselor Association

Representatives of the following entities indicated support for the bill:

Michigan Department of Education (2-25-20)
Middle Cities Education Association (2-25-20)
Michigan Association of School Boards (2-25-20)
Michigan Manufacturers Association (2-25-20)
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (2-25-20)
ESA Legislative Group (2-25-20)
Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (2-25-20)
Oakland Schools (2-25-20)
West Michigan Talent Triangle (2-25-20)
Michigan Education Association (2-25-20)
Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Jackson, Lenawee, and Monroe ISDs (3-3-20)
Michigan Chamber of Commerce (3-3-20)

Legislative Analyst: Jenny McInerney
Fiscal Analysts: Samuel Christensen
Jacqueline Mullen

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.