

Legislative Analysis



MAKE TRADE SCHOOLS AN ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4154 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Brian BeGole

1st Committee: Education and Workforce

2nd Committee: Rules

Complete to 3-20-25

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4154 would amend the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act to make a *trade school* an *eligible postsecondary institution*. Under the act, high school students can attend an eligible postsecondary institution prior to graduating at no cost to the student if they are taking one or more courses that satisfy the requirements for a degree at that institution. The bill would expand this to apply to courses that satisfy the requirements of a certificate as well.

Presently, an *eligible postsecondary institution* means a state university, community college, or independent nonprofit degree-granting college or university that is located in Michigan and that chooses to comply with the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act. An out-of-state college that is located within 20 miles of the Michigan border and that chooses to comply with the act is also an eligible postsecondary institution for an eligible student if at least one of the following is met:

- The eligible student is enrolled in a school district that shares a border with the state where the out-of-state college is located.
- The eligible student is enrolled in a public school academy that is located in a school district that shares a border with the state where the out-of-state college is located.
- The eligible student is enrolled in a state approved nonpublic school that is located in a school district that shares a border with the state where the out-of-state college is located.

A *trade school* would mean a program of organized systematic instruction designed to prepare any of the following individuals for useful employment in recognized occupations:

- An individual who has completed or left high school and who is available for full-time study in preparation for entering the labor market.
- An individual who has already entered the labor market and who needs training to achieve stability or advancement in employment.
- An individual enrolled in high school.

MCL 388.513

BACKGROUND:

Michigan's dual enrollment option allows students to enroll in certain postsecondary programs while they finish high school. This allows students to begin earning college credit at a state university, community college, or independent nonprofit degree-granting college or university

in Michigan. Students can also attend a program at one of these institutions if the institution is located within 20 miles of the Michigan border. The cost of attendance is covered by the state, making the arrangement beneficial to students who use dual enrollment. Supporters argue that, by expanding eligibility to trade schools, the bill will allow even more students to pursue dual enrollment options, especially if the student is not planning to attend a college or university after high school graduation. While many intermediate school districts and community colleges offer skilled trades training programs, they are not available in all areas of the state, and making trade schools eligible will increase access to this career route.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4154 would have no fiscal impact on the state and would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local school districts and public school academies (PSAs).

Under the bill, districts and PSAs would be required to pay for dual enrollment for high school students that choose to enroll in classes at a trade school. The expansion to include trade schools could lead some students to choose to dual enroll when they otherwise would not have. In addition, students who would have enrolled in a college class may instead choose to enroll in a trade school class, which could result in savings for a district or PSA. The actual fiscal impact depends on the number of students who dual enroll in trade school classes, which students dual enroll, and the cost of different classes.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill (3-12-25):

- Association of Builders and Contractors
- Great Lakes Education Project
- Michigan Manufacturers Association
- Michigan Laborers District Council

Legislative Analyst: Josh Roesner
Fiscal Analysts: Noel Benson
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.