

2017 Advocacy Summary

A surprising number of legislative bills related to adult education were passed in this year's session, despite the amount of fruitless hours spent trying to craft an acceptable state budget. Here's a quick rundown on these passed bills. More detailed info on these and other bills will come out during the next academic year, but here's a head start:

SB 1026 - *Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements*

At long last, this change to current graduation requirements appears to have an actual start date, along with some adult ed-friendly revisions. The credit requirement will be increased to 25 credits, starting with the graduating class of 2023. The bill allows graduation requirements to be met through successful demonstration of subject matter content mastery, achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide multiple pathways to learning. The new law also increases the health and safety credit requirement from a half credit to one credit, beginning two years from now.

HB 5590 - *Creation of a Task Force to Improve the Workforce Development System*

This bill exploded from a small "study only" bill to one that creates a Workforce Training Authority with its own related fund, a "soft skills" training program RFP, "early college opportunity" programs to go with career certificate programs and "industry-specific advisory councils." The entire bill can be seen [here](#).

HB 5116 - *Public Access to Higher Education and Employment Data*

This bill actually repeats a law passed last year that requires all of the state public postsecondary schools to supply employment, job retention and earnings data on their graduates for publication by the Higher Education Coordinating Council. This data will help potential students make decisions about quality career preparation and program results.

HB 7207 - *Revisions to the Student Data Privacy Act*

The key provision in this bill extends to July 1, 2018 the date by which written contracts with clear regulations must be used in new business dealings with data handling vendors. Originally this bill took effect last October, when no one was ready. CAACE is in contact with some of our major vendors regarding these agreements.

HB 7271 - *Establishment of the Technical HS System as an Independent Agency*

There will be a 3-year transition of the current tech high school system into an independent executive branch agency called the "Technical Education and Career System." Overall, this bill seeks to transform the system into one that better responds to job market demands and the skills required by both students and their teachers.

SB 953 - *Revisions to the Professional Development and In Service Training Requirements for Educators*

The bill reduces mandated reporting by school districts on professional development and eliminates several topics currently required for teacher professional development.

HB 7053 - *Publication of CCSU Transfer and Articulation Agreements*

Students trying to map out transfers within the state public college and university system should be helped by this bill, which requires colleges to show what courses and programs transfer to and from their schools.

Bills Not Passed:

HB 7273 - This bill would have restored discretion to school districts regarding background check requirements for non-certified instructors of noncredit, adult enrichment courses. It died on the Senate calendar as time ran out on the session. We will continue to work to get this language added in other legislation.

Submitted by David Downes with special thanks to Judy Blei and associates for staying on top of all of this!