



SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HOUSE BILL 108

*"An Act relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade
Experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools
Relating to child labor"*

House Bill 108 (HB108) would provide public secondary high school students, 14 years of age and older, the opportunity to participate in concurrent enrollment vocational education, training and on-the-job trade experience programs with industry-standard instruction and certification.

For the past several years, high school students throughout the state have had the opportunity to advance their education and career goals, while still attending public high schools, and college through dual enrollment. However, students planning for vocational or trade career have been made to wait until graduation to actively pursue training in their desired field. HB108 brings vocational trade education and training opportunities with industry-standard certification and workforce availability.

To ensure that students are receiving the best training, concurrent vocational education instructors must possess a valid instructor certificate and an industry standard master skill certification, or equivalent. Additionally, any trade program that contracts with a school district must provide a statement that their program instruction meets industry standards for apprenticeships, journeyman or equivalent certification based on agency accredited, national, regional, or programmatic instruction standards.

The sponsors of this bill recognize that there are many ways of learning. Many hands-on learners who struggle in the traditional classroom, have found great success in vocational trade training programs. Program applicants will not be selected based on merit rather by random drawing, or lottery, to give each student a fair and equal opportunity.

HB108 will improve high school attendance, raise graduation rate due to students with educational purpose, and produce a stronger, viable workforce with industry skilled work ethics, and experience.