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Office

H.B. 71
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 71's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Re-referred to House Finance

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Santucci

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$8.0 million from lottery profits in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 for the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to support the newly created Community Connectors Workforce Program to connect students to jobs and internships in their communities. The program will be overseen by DEW and administered by educational service centers.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW)¹ to establish and oversee the Community Connectors Workforce Program that is designed to connect students to jobs and internships in their communities. The bill supports the program with appropriations of \$8.0 million from lottery profits in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025. DEW will distribute these funds to educational service centers (ESCs) to employ at least one, but not more than three, directors to administer the program in the high schools the ESC serves (the bill makes the requirement for ESCs to employ the program directors contingent on state appropriations). ESCs are responsible for determining the appropriate number of program directors and any eligibility or application requirements for them, except that the bill requires the program directors to have experience in job placement, school counseling, or primary and secondary education.

¹ H.B. 71 was introduced prior to the enactment of H.B. 33, the main operating appropriations act of the 135th General Assembly, which transferred most of the powers of the state Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Education to the Director and DEW. References to DEW in this fiscal analysis reflect those changes.

The program directors must identify jobs and internships in the community, determine the number of students that may participate, select students through an application and interview process, and, at the discretion of the district or school, provide instruction in soft skills (i.e., skills associated with communication, time management, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking, and so on), and professional skills training. If a district or school already offers similar instruction, the director must collaborate with the instructors, other appropriate school officials that have commensurate experience, and professionals who support career development in the school. The bill also requires the program directors to report certain program information to the employing ESC and DEW.