

Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler-Arthur, Ranking member Robinson and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee; I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 432 today.

HB 432 seeks to create alternative licensure pathways for Career Technical Education (CTE) Instructors who are not currently employed by a Career Tech Planning District (CTPD), as well as alternative ways to issue licenses for CTPDs, while maintaining equal and necessary levels of rigor that currently exist.

As many of you are aware, Ohio is facing a shortage of Career Tech Instructors. This is not because qualified instructors do not exist, but because of the red tape standing in the way of qualified instructors being issued a license. To offer the Committee just one quick example of red tape that HB 423 will address: today, a licensed K-12 teacher who meets the existing work and experience requirements cannot be issued a CTE teaching license without 24 additional hours of college instruction in a teacher preparation program (referred to as the “University Program”)—often taken at their own expense. This is an excessive requirement and a barrier to entry for instructors with a proven capability to do the job.

If you look at your iPads, I have provided the bill analysis from HB 98 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly that last modified the existing CTE licensure pathways, as well as some information about the current CTE teacher preparatory program provided by Ohio State University (as well as a handful of other Institutions of Higher Education).

To remedy these issues and provide Ohio CTPDs the tools needed to secure qualified career tech instructors for Ohio students, this bill creates the following additional pathways to licensure.

First, it allows instructors to obtain licenses **before** they are hired by a CTPD. Applicable provisions include:

1. Currently licensed K-12 teachers can become CTE instructors, granted they meet the work and experience requirements under CTE-36 and meet with a mentor once being hired.
2. Allows prospective instructors without a teaching license who meet the work and experience requirements under CTE-36 to enroll in a University Program approved by ODHE (prior to being hired by a CTPD).

For instructors who are already hired by a CTPD, it maintains the current licensure option that requires completion of an ODHE-approved University Program, but creates the following alternative pathways:

1. A 2-year alternative licensing program that allows the employing school district to provide a mentoring program—created by one or more Lead Career-Technical Planning Districts—for alternatively licensed CTE instructors. This program must include:
  - a. Assignment of a mentor who holds a teaching license or who has served as an administrator.
  - b. Completion of a competency based self-assessment.
  - c. Development of a personal learning plan approved by the CTPD lead district (or designee).
  - d. Participation in a structured mentorship program, aligned to the personal learning plan, that consists of 90 clock hours of professional development during the initial 2-year license for individuals.

2. A teacher preparatory program that requires 9 college credit hours, plus 45 hours of local professional development designed by the employing district. This third option is intended to be a blend of the University Program, and the newly created alternative licensure program offered by CTPDs.

With these additional pathways, we can provide Ohio students with a larger pool of qualified CTE instructors, and better equip CTPDs to meet the growing demand for CTE and projected increased in CTE enrollment from recent state investments. This bill does not lower that standard of CTE instructors, but instead creates alternative pathways for qualified instructors to obtain licensure.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today, I will now take any questions you might have.