

95th House District

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Don Jones
State Representative

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Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking member Ingram and members of the Senate 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 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 these qualified instructors being issued a license.

To remedy this problem and provide Ohio CTPDs the tools required to provide qualified career tech instructors to Ohio students, this bill creates the following pathways to licensure.

First, it allows instructors to obtain licenses **before** they are hired by a CTPD. The requirements for this license are;

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. Allow instructors without a K-12 license who meet the work and experience requirements under CTE-36 to enroll in the CTE workforce teacher preparation program approved by ODHE prior without being hired by a CTPD.

For instructors who are already hired by a CTPD, it maintains the current licensure requirements but creates the following alternative pathways.

1. Completion of a college program for the CTE workforce teacher education approved by ODHE
2. A program that requires 9 college credit hours, plus 45 hours of local professional development designed by the employing district.
3. A 2-year alternative licensing program that allows the employing school district to provide a mentoring program for alternatively licensed CTE instructors.
 - a. This program must include
 - i. Assignment of a mentor who holds a teaching license or who has served as an administrator

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- ii. Completion of a competency based self-assessment that is designed and approved by DEW
- iii. Development of a personal learning plan approved by the CTPD lead district (or designee)
- iv. 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.

There are 2 main purposes behind this bill. One is to resolve the shortage of Career Tech Educators in the state of Ohio and give CTPDs the tools necessary to teach every student who wants a career tech education in Ohio. The second is to not just ensure that there are instructors, but that these instructors are knowledgeable in their field and adequately prepared to provide instruction in the classroom. For this reason, we offered amendments in committee that aligned the alternative programs to the DEW competencies, which are the same competencies used in the existing university program. We also worked with Career Tech Instructors and Career Tech Superintendents, so we could hear from those who are on the ground every day and give them a bill that truly provides a solution to their issue. With these additional pathways, we can provide Ohio Students with increased qualified instructors, and better equip CTPDs to meet the demand of growing interest in CTE and projected increases 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.