

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 170

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195602.2

Short Title: High School Student Industry Certification

Sponsor(s): Representative Sheryl M. Williams Stapleton and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 11, 2014

Bill Summary:

HB 170 makes an appropriation to assist high school students statewide to pay required fees to obtain industry certification in their chosen careers and technical education fields.

Fiscal Impact:

\$1.5 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Workforce Solutions Department (WSD) for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

According to WSD, HB 170 complements and expands services and activities currently administered by the department, including:

- apprenticeship programs;
- high school career centers; and
- federally funded youth programs.

Background:

According to the Public Education Department, earning industry certification:

- gives students a sense of accomplishment;
- provides a highly valued professional credential; and
- helps students become more employable with higher starting salaries.

Industry certifications provide solid evidence of technical skill attainment within the context of work readiness.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 182 *Move Apprenticeship Assistance Program*