

SENATE BILL REPORT

2SSB 5358

As Passed Senate, March 6, 2025

Title: An act relating to career and technical education in sixth grade.

Brief Description: Concerning career and technical education in sixth grade.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Braun, Chapman, Christian, Cortes, Liias, MacEwen, Nobles, Salomon, Wellman and Wilson, C.; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/30/25, 2/12/25 [DPS-WM].
Ways & Means: 2/20/25, 2/28/25 [DP2S, w/oRec].

Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 3/6/25, 48-1.

Brief Summary of Second Substitute Bill

- Permits school districts to offer Career and Technical Education Program (CTE) courses to sixth graders in middle school.
- Requires middle and high school CTE courses to be treated as a single program for accounting purposes.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5358 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Wellman, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair, K-12; Wilson, C., Vice Chair, Early Learning; Harris, Ranking Member; Cortes, Dozier, Hansen, Krishnadasan and McCune.

Staff: Alex Fairfortune (786-7416)

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: That Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5358 be substituted therefor, and the second substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Robinson, Chair; Stanford, Vice Chair, Operating; Trudeau, Vice Chair, Capital; Frame, Vice Chair, Finance; Gildon, Ranking Member, Operating; Torres, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating; Schoesler, Ranking Member, Capital; Dozier, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Boehnke, Braun, Cleveland, Conway, Dhingra, Hansen, Kauffman, Muzzall, Pedersen, Riccelli, Saldaña, Wagoner, Warnick, Wellman and Wilson, C..

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Hasegawa.

Staff: Kayla Hammer (786-7305)

Background: Career and Technical Education Programs. Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a planned program of courses and learning experiences that begins with exploration of career options and supports basic academic and life skills. CTE instruction is delivered through programs at middle and high schools, through approved online courses, and at skill centers.

Career and Technical Education Funding. The prototypical school model provides funding for CTE courses offered at the middle school and high school level. This funding is calculated using CTE-specific student-to-teacher ratios and per-pupil amounts for materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC). MSOC funds are currently provided for exploratory CTE courses offered in grades 7 to 12, preparatory CTE courses offered in grades 9 to 12, and preparatory CTE courses offered in grades 11 to 12 through a skill center.

Summary of Second Substitute Bill: School districts may offer exploratory CTE courses to sixth grade students in middle school.

Sixth grade middle school students enrolled in exploratory CTE programs may not be included in enrollment counts for purposes of CTE allocations.

Middle and high school CTE courses must be treated as a single program when accounting for and calculating minimum expenditures, carryover amounts, and recovery amounts. This treatment is exclusively for accounting purposes and must not result in disparate program quality across grade levels.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on First Substitute (Early Learning & K-12 Education): PRO: Coming from a family of manufacturing and trade was a unique and valuable experience, and it is something we have gotten away from in recent decades. This bill would allow students in middle school to have these hands on experiences. This is a simple, agency request bill that allows students in 6th grade to explore CTE opportunities. Currently one third of students in a three-year middle school cannot be part of the master schedule and, if they are allowed, then it adds work for the fiscal managers to back out the calculation on their end. This would allow sixth graders to participate and makes sure there is a continuum process that supports the CTE pathway and high school and beyond plan. More sixth graders are moving to middle schools as the school buildings are being remodeled and this creates hands on experiences for them that aren't currently available. If the Legislature is unable to fully fund it this year at least there will be a framework in place for future years.

Persons Testifying (Early Learning & K-12 Education): PRO: Senator John Braun, Prime Sponsor; Scott Kerwien, Spokane Public Schools; Misha Cherniske, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; Tim Knue, Washington Association for Career and Technical Education.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Early Learning & K-12 Education): No one.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on First Substitute (Ways & Means): *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: This is a good little bill. It allows more students to access CTE. This bill streamlines funds up and down the continuum and it is appreciated. This allows 6th graders to explore early and it gets youth engaged. Strongly believe CTE is vital, and courses provide experience and hands on learning with real world applications.

Persons Testifying (Ways & Means): PRO: Dan Read, Onion Creek School District; Tim Knue, Washington Association for Career and Technical Education; Misha Cherniske, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Ways & Means): No one.