**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 28 TO CHAPTER 53, TITLE 59 SO AS TO PROVIDE A COLLABORATIVE DESIGN OF A CAREER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FOR STUDENTS IN A MANNER TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO EARN INCOME WHILE PROGRESSING ALONG THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY, TO SPECIFY REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL POST CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY ONLINE; AND BY ADDING ARTICLE 30 TO CHAPTER 53, TITLE 59 SO AS TO CREATE ONE CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN CONSTRUCTION PATHWAY DISTRICT IN EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE STATE, TO ESTABLISH TWO CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN CONSTRUCTION PATHWAY CENTERS IN EACH DISTRICT, TO PROVIDE COURSEWORK AND GUIDANCE FOR RESIDENTS SEEKING TO PURSUE STUDIES IN A CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN CONSTRUCTION PATHWAY PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT OF THE DISTRICTS AND CENTERS BY THE STATE BOARD FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING OF THE CENTERS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTERS, AND TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE CENTERS BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 53, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 28

Career Development in Construction Pathways

Section 59‑53‑2610. As used in this chapter:

(1) ‘Board’ means the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.

(2) ‘Career development pathway’ means a series of connected education and training strategies and support services that enable individuals to secure industry‑relevant skills, general business skills, such as writing business proposals, and certification where applicable, to obtain employment within an occupational area, and to advance to higher levels of future education and employment.

(3) ‘Construction industry’ means a wide range of activities involving architectural drafting, construction, alteration, and repair of commercial structures and residential structures, bridge erection, roadway paving, excavations, demolitions, and large scale painting jobs, among many others.

(4) ‘Construction industry partnership’ means a collaboration of engineers and contractors, in partnership with public workforce development, economic development, business and industry, and educational partners, to ensure that workers are prepared to meet the growing demands of the construction industry within a geographic area.

(5) ‘Stackable certifications’ means a sequence of credentials, each of which is recognized by employers and provides a gateway to employment and matriculation into a technical degree or advanced study in a field.

Section 59‑53‑2620. (A) No later than the 2019‑2020 School Year, the board, after consulting with the state’s technical colleges and area vocational schools, and in collaboration with the Department of Employment and Workforce, the Commission on Higher Education, the Department of Education, the Economic Development Coordinating Council, and the State Council on Vocational‑Technical Education shall design a career development pathway for students within the construction sector. These career development pathways must connect school districts, technical colleges, vocational schools, junior colleges, and four‑year institutions of higher education with adult education programs, and local workforce development programs, and will allow a student to earn income while progressing along the career development pathway.

(B) These career development pathways must include industry‑validated stackable certifications and multiple entry and exit points that allow students of all ages to seek additional opportunities in the construction sector. The career development in construction pathway designed by the board must include, but need not be limited to:

(1) alignment with the skills and requirements that state and local construction sector employers, through construction sector partnerships, determine are necessary for career progression in high‑demand occupations within the construction sector;

(2) a full range of middle school, secondary, adult education, and postsecondary education options, with a nonduplicative, clearly articulated course progression from one level of instruction to the next, with opportunities to earn postsecondary credits, maximize credit for prior learning, and secure industry‑validated credentials;

(3) technical skill assessments at multiple points in the career development in construction pathway that lead to industry certifications or other value in employment, including advanced placement into a higher level of training;

(4) academic and career counseling resources, best practices in wraparound support services, particularly at transition points along the career development in construction pathway, and support and development of individual career and academic plans; and

(5) curriculum and instructional strategies that are appropriate for adult students and that embed learning and skill building in a work‑related context.

Section 59‑53‑2630. (A) After the design of the career development pathways provided in this article are complete, the Commission on Higher Education, in collaboration with the Department of Employment and Workforce, shall post information concerning the career development pathway on the state‑provided, free online resource commonly referred to as ‘CollegeInSouthCarolina.gov’. This resource must include information concerning:

(1) construction sector career awareness;

(2) salary and wage information for construction sector careers;

(3) the construction sector employment forecast;

(4) information on programs within the career development in construction pathway, services provided, and financial aid opportunities for students; and

(5) online student support services.

(B) Each public school shall include information concerning career center coursework, curriculum, and other relevant information given to students when registering for courses.”

SECTION 2. Chapter 53, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 30

Career Development in Construction Pathway Districts

Section 59‑53‑2810. There are created seven career development in construction pathway districts in the State, with one representing each congressional district. Within each of these seven districts, there are established two career development in construction pathway centers to provide coursework and guidance for residents seeking to pursue studies in a career development in construction pathway program established pursuant to Article 28.

Section 59‑53‑2820. The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education shall oversee the districts and centers, including:

(1) determining, in collaboration with regional public‑private partnerships, specific features of the curriculum offered in each center to ensure that the curriculum responds to the unique needs of its regional economy, and that the curriculum evolves as those unique needs change;

(2) specify criteria for establishing public‑private partnerships at each center as referenced in item (3), with these public‑private partnerships serving to identify the unique needs of the regional economy and to facilitate an educational relationship experience for students in each career center, such as internships and expert lecturers;

(3) guidelines that a center may use to certify private‑sector professionals with proven track records in the fields of study offered by the center; and

(4) conduct an annual review of the budget expenditures of each center and the progress of each center in accomplishing the purposes of this section.

Section 59‑53‑2830. Each center must be funded with monies appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose. A center may be housed in an existing technical or vocational school.

Section 59‑53‑2840. Each center must employ a full‑time director to manage the center. The director shall identify, recruit, and certify people with expertise in the fields of study offered at the center to teach courses at the center, and may consider the guidelines created by the State Council on Vocational and Technical Education in making this certification.

Section 39‑53‑2850. A center may receive financial or in‑kind contributions from private sources or other public sources.

Section 59‑53‑2860. (A) Each public school district shall provide bussing transportation to students in the district to and from the nearest career development pathway center if the student wishes to pursue studies in the center.

(B) Each regional transportation authority shall include routes that include stops and pickups for the centers located in the service area of the authority.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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