HB278

FV6ADCD-1

By Representative DuBose

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 29-Feb-24

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, career and technical education programs are available to students at certain public schools.

Existing law does not authorize home school students to participate in any class or program offered by a public school.

This bill would authorize home school students to participate in career and technical education programs at public schools.

This bill would provide conditions that a home school student must meet in order to participate in a career and technical education program.

This bill would also require the State Board of Education and each local board of education to adopt rules relating to the participation of home school students in career and technical education programs.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to authorize home school students to participate in certain career and technical

education programs at public schools; to provide standards relating to a home school student's participation; and to require the State Board of Education and local boards of education to adopt rules.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION or CTE. An area of study that blends academic, occupational, and life skills leading to a credential, employment, or further education.

(2) HOME SCHOOL STUDENT. A student who is instructed by a private tutor pursuant to Section 16-28-5, Code of Alabama 1975, or who is taught at home and is enrolled in a private school or a church school as provided in Section 16-28-1, Code of Alabama 1975.

(3) STATE BOARD. The State Board of Education.

Section 2. (a) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, a home school student may participate in any career and technical education program offered by a public school, provided that the home school student satisfies the same residency requirements as other students enrolled in the public school through which the home school student participates.

(b) A home school student's participation in a CTE program is conditioned on all of the following:

(1) The home school student registering with the local board of education his or her intention to participate in the CTE program.

(2) The home school student paying any course fees in an amount equal to the fee charged to an enrolled public school student.

(3) The home school student adhering to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other enrolled public school students participating in the course. If the home school student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the participation of the home school student in the CTE program is contingent upon the established policy of the local board of education.

(4) The home school student adhering to the same academic standards as other enrolled public school students participating in the program, with those standards confirmed by appropriate documentation, as determined by the state board.

(5) The home school student satisfying any prerequisites to enrollment or having the equivalent to any prerequisites to enrollment that apply to other enrolled public school students in the program.

(6) Compliance with any other policies adopted by the state board related to the enrollment of home school students in a CTE program.

(c) In the event that a CTE program has limited enrollment capacity, a home school student who wishes to enroll in the CTE program shall be considered for enrollment

in the same manner as an enrolled student who attends the public school offering the CTE program.

(d)(1) The state board shall adopt rules to implement and administer this section.

(2) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy reflecting the requirements of this section and rules adopted by the state board.

(3) Neither the state board nor any local board of education may impose additional requirements on home school students that are not imposed on enrolled public school students.

Section 3. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2024.