SB176

YS3F626-1

By Senators Chesteen, Singleton, Orr, Roberts, Williams, Kitchens, Shelnutt, Hatcher, Beasley, Allen, Melson

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 29-Feb-24

SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Alabama Career RoadMap Act and provide legislative findings.

This bill would require the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to develop a workforce exploration module, completion of which would be required for a student to graduate high school.

This bill would require each student who completes the module to receive a credential at the local community college.

This bill would require ACCS to develop a list of Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities, which may include, but not be limited to, dual enrollment courses, career readiness courses, and other accelerated learning opportunities.

This bill would require each high school student to complete a Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.

This bill would require each local board of education to collaborate with the local community college to facilitate the module and Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities and to allow certain community college personnel into the classroom.

This bill would require ACCS to adopt policies and procedures.

This bill would also require the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the module into the career preparedness course of study and amend graduation requirements to reflect this bill.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education and two-year institutions of higher education; to create the Alabama Career RoadMap Act; to provide legislative findings; to require the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to develop a career readiness module and a list of Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities; to require each public high school student to complete the module and a Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity prior to graduating high school; to require each local board of education to collaborate with local community colleges; and to require ACCS and the State Board of Education to adopt policies, procedures, and rules.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) This act shall be known and may be cited as the Alabama Career RoadMap Act.

(b) The purposes of this act are:

(1) To promote and provide educational opportunities to high school students by requiring access to and completion of programs that emphasize opportunities in skilled career

pathways; and

(2) To support the successful transition of high school students into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce.

(c) The Legislature finds and declares:

(1) That the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) and its network of community and technical colleges deliver excellent workforce development education and initiatives;

(2) That education provided by ACCS and its network of colleges is responsive to industry needs and is vital to increasing the state's labor force participation;

(3) That support for ACCS is necessary to continue to bolster the state's education and workforce system; and

(4) That creating an initiative in which ACCS may provide high school students with career exploration, information about how to obtain postesecondary education, and access to in-demand career pathways will help students achieve valuable and portable postsecondary degrees, certificates, and credentials.

Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM or ACCS. The same meaning as Section 16-60-110, Code of Alabama 1975.

(2) CAREER ROADMAP POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITY. A program or course that contributes to a student's college and career readiness and which is approved by or offered by ACCS pursuant to Section 4.

(3) LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE. The community college or

technical college whose service area includes the local board of education and the schools in its jurisdiction. The term "service area" refers to the area that a community college or technical college serves, as determined by ACCS.

(4) MODULE. The workforce exploration module developed by ACCS under Section 3.

(5) STUDENT. An individual enrolled in a public high school in the state.

Section 3. (a) The Alabama Community College System shall develop and administer a workforce exploration module that emphasizes opportunities in skilled career pathways. The module shall be a minimum of 10 hours of instruction time. The module shall be administered to students by individuals approved by ACCS and the local board of education, including, but not limited to, career coaches or career preparedness teachers.

(b) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year:

(1) ACCS shall provide the module to each local board of education;

(2) Completion of the module shall be required for high school graduation beginning with the 2028-2029 graduating class; and

(3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement the module into the career preparedness course of study.

(c) Each student who successfully completes the module shall receive a credential from the local community college. The credential shall be awarded by the local community college

at no cost to the student.

Section 4. (a) The Alabama Community College System shall develop a list of Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities. Appropriate opportunities include, but are not limited to: (i) dual enrollment courses; (ii) career readiness courses; and (iii) other accelerated learning opportunities.

(b)(1) Beginning with the 2028-2029 graduating class, each high school student must complete at least one Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma.

(2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to ensure that high school graduation requirements meet the requirements of this act. The board may include rules to exempt students for whom completion of a Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity would be overly burdensom, based on the student's individualized education program (IEP).

(c)(1) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy relating to Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities. The policy shall include, but is not limited to: (i) which Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities are available; and (ii) how a student may qualify for a particular Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity.

(2) No local board of education may unreasonably deny a student participation in a Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity.

Section 5. (a) Each local board of education shall collaborate with the local community college to: (i) facilitate appropriate Career RoadMap Postsecondary

Opportunities; and (ii) assist with the administration of the module.

(b) Each local board of education shall allow personnel from the local community college into classrooms for the purposes of complying with subsection (a), provided that:

(1) Any community college personnel who enters a classroom pursuant to this subdivision shall comply with the Alabama Child Protection Act of 1999, relating to criminal history background check requirements; and

(2) Any community college personnel who has been adjudicated or convicted of an offense that requires registration as a sex offender under Chapter 20A of Title 15, Code of Alabama 1975, may not be permitted into the classroom for purposes related to the implementation or administration of this act.

Section 6. (a) ACCS shall adopt policies and procedures to implement and administer this act. ACCS may adopt additional policies and procedures to develop and administer a mentorship program for high school students.

(b) Each local board of education shall share relevant student information and data with ACCS in a manner consistent with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and state law.

Section 7. This act shall become effective on June 1, 2024.