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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 456

125th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. C. Evans, Schmidt

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates a partnership program between the Collins Career Center in Lawrence County and institutions of higher education that allows the institutions to offer courses at the Center.
- Requires the Board of Regents to issue a charter for a new community college to be operated jointly with the Collins Career Center.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Joint vocational-college partnership program

(Section 1)

The bill requires the Board of Regents to approve a partnership between the Collins Career Center in Lawrence County and institutions of higher education whereby the Career Center's joint vocational school district board of education will host programs offered by the institutions. However, the Career Center's board must approve the partnership before the program may be implemented. Additionally, the Career Center's board and the local workforce policy board must submit to the Board of Regents a plan for the partnership that is similar to the program operated through the Lorain County Community College's University Center.¹ Participating institutions of higher education are responsible for compensating the Career Center at a reasonable rate for services the Center renders. The program will not be eligible to receive state financial assistance that

¹ *Lorain County Community College has partnerships with various Ohio four-year universities whereby students may take university courses at the community college. The effect of these partnerships is that students may obtain four-year degrees in certain fields at the community college sites.*

is available to institutions of higher education, including assistance for capital improvements.

Creation of a new community college

(Section 2)

Notwithstanding the Board of Regent's authority to issue or decline to issue charters for proposed community college districts,² the bill requires that the Board issue a charter for a new community college to be operated jointly with the Collins Career Center. The community college district will be comprised of the territory within the boundaries of Lawrence County, regardless of whether that territory satisfies the minimum population requirement of 75,000 that is established in the Community College Law. The charter must be granted after the Career Center's board of education approves the college's creation and after the board of education and the local workforce policy board submit a community college plan to the Board of Regents, and the Board of Regents approves the plan.³ Once a charter is issued, the Governor and the Lawrence County Board of County Commissioners must appoint a board of trustees.⁴

The bill, however, does not authorize the new community college to offer courses or request approval of associate degree programs from the Board of Regents until after July 1, 2005. The board of trustees of the college is only permitted to carry out organizational activities until that date. After that date, the joint vocational-community college is permitted to offer career-technical education to secondary school students and two-year arts and sciences and technical programs for postsecondary school students. The joint vocational-community college is also authorized to provide arts and sciences and technical instruction programs for secondary students participating in the Post Secondary Enrollment Options program.

In fulfilling its educational duties, the joint vocational-community college established under the bill is ineligible to receive state assistance for capital improvements otherwise available to community colleges. However, it is eligible to receive classroom facilities assistance through the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) as long as the project receiving classroom facilities funds would benefit secondary school students receiving career-technical education from

² See R.C. 3333.05.

³ The plan must conform to the requirements of the Community College Law (R.C. 3354.07, not in the bill).

⁴ See R.C. 3354.05, not in the bill.

the joint vocational component of the joint vocational-community college. If a project would be used exclusively for community college purposes, it is prohibited from receiving classroom facilities assistance through the OSFC.⁵ Presumably, the FY 2006 and 2007 budget would address whether the new community college receives state aid such as the State Share of Instruction.

Finally, as community college districts and joint vocational school districts are both permitted to issue bonds and levy taxes, the bill specifies that all revenues received to carry out joint vocational education duties be kept separate from all revenues received to carry out community college duties.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	04-08-04	p. 1757

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⁵ See R.C. 3318.40(C), not in the bill.