

Senate Education Committee

Ryan Meleedy 271-4151

SB 99-FN, relative to regional career and technical education agreements.

Hearing Date: February 4, 2025

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas, Prentiss and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill extends access to career and technical education and requires regional CTE agreements to include an access program for full and part time students.

Sponsors:

Sen. Watters	Sen. Avard	Sen. Murphy
Sen. Sullivan	Sen. Altschiller	Sen. Innis
Sen. Pearl	Sen. Rosenwald	Sen. Fenton
Sen. Carson	Sen. Perkins Kwoka	Rep. Cornell
Rep. Ladd	Rep. Cordelli	Rep. Noble

Who supports the bill: Senator David Watters, Senator Daniel Innis, Senator Donovan Fenton, Sen. Debra Altschiller, Linda Burnap, Amy Erickson, Priscilla Dube, Kate Coon, Virginia Lever, Richard Denmark, Harriet Demark, Michele Carey, Elizabeth Lewis, Bruce Berk, Marry Till, Andrew Jones, Gary Devore, Marie Straiton, Claudia Damon, Sally Patton, Claudia Istel, Karolyn Campbell, Lois Cote, Barbara Zaenglein, Laura Vincent, Susan Moore, Janet Lucas, Ruth Perencevich, Nancy Kelly, Regan Lamphier, Nancy Brennan, Maxine Petrucci, Charles Petrucci.

Who opposes the bill: No one signed in opposition to this bill.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one signed in neutrality to this bill.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator David Watters

- Senator Watters testified in support of his prime-sponsored Senate Bill 99.
- Senator Watters explained that the bill's intent is to increase access to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs throughout New Hampshire.
- Senator Watters explained that, under the current system, if a school does not have a CTE program, students from that school are permitted to attend a CTE

program at another school (receiving school) with which their home school (sending school) has an agreement in place.

- Senator Watters established that scheduling issues for CTE students had been an issue in the past because of a lack of uniformity in academic calendars between sending and receiving schools (i.e., teacher workshop days) but that this issue had been remedied by requiring uniformity of academic calendars between sending and receiving schools.
- He explained that many sending schools have agreements with receiving schools with CTE programs that are far away from where their students live. This creates a burden for students because they often are forced to leave their CTE courses early to attend their mandatory academic courses at the sending school. Senator Watters explained that there are often schools with CTE programs that are closer to where the students live, yet sending schools do not have agreements with them, so CTE students are forced to drive longer distances for their CTE program.
- Senator Watters explained that this bill would allow students to choose where they attend CTE courses, which could help mitigate the existing transportation issues that some CTE students experience, increasing access to CTE programs.
- Senator Watters established that the bill not only lets CTE students choose where they attend CTE courses but also allows them to attend their regular academic classes at whichever receiving school they attend their CTE program. This would eliminate the commute between schools for CTE students if they chose to take advantage of it. He explained that CTE students would have the option to take some of their classes at the receiving school in accordance with their schedule, and to take the rest at the sending school (as opposed to having to take all of their academic courses at one school).
- Senator Watters explained that the bill would also allow academic credits, such as math, to be embedded within CTE courses to allow CTE students to fulfill their mandatory academic requirements while focusing more time and attention on their technical training.
- Senator Watters explained that the bill would require schools to figure out the basic logistics through their agreements with their regional partnered schools.
- Senator Watters explained that this bill would also benefit CTE students who are home-schooled, attending chartered schools, or attending non-public schools. He explained that allowing them to attend their nearest CTE program would be extremely advantageous to students in these schools, especially non-public school students who often must travel relatively extreme distances for their CTE programs based on the school's pre-established agreements.

- Senator Watters highlighted increasing enrollment in CTE programs over the last few years and explained that it is essential to continue to build on the successes of CTE programs.