

Senate Education Committee

Ryan Meleedy 271-4151

HB 354, relative to alternate certification pathways for career and technical education instructors.

Hearing Date: April 22, 2025

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill permits the board of education to offer a certificate of eligibility to individuals interested in becoming career and technical educators in identified specialty areas.

Sponsors:

Rep. Ladd
Rep. Cornell
Sen. Pearl

Rep. Cordelli
Rep. Leishman
Sen. Ward

Rep. Noble
Sen. Watters
Sen. Lang

Who supports the bill: Representative Rick Ladd, Dan Bennett (NH Auto Dealers Association), Daniel Richardson, Danielle Doughty.

Who opposes the bill: Michael Strong, Chris Cutler, Alecia Magnifico.

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

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Rick Ladd

- Representative Ladd testified in support of House Bill 354 as the bill's prime sponsor.
- Representative Ladd established that this bill is necessary because, after discussions with stakeholders, it became clear that the rules currently in place for alternative pathways for licensure only require three years of full-time experience in the area where the license is sought and a current industry-recognized credential approved by the department.
- He expressed that House Bill 354 places the current rule into statute and modifies it to include three years of professional full-time experience in the area where the license is sought.

- He expressed that the established rules for other areas utilize the word “professional” throughout the RSAs, but the word has not yet made it to the area of career technical education.
- He established that full-time experience is defined as an individual who works thirty to forty hours a week, and can be done for pay or for pleasure. He expressed that including the word “professional” specifically denotes work done in a paid, full-time capacity, which usually requires a higher level of skill or certification achievement.
- He said that including the word professional raises the bar for these instructors, and these skills associated with professionals are needed in the CTE centers. He stated that this change to the rules will ensure that instructors have the skills necessary to qualify them to be instructors.
- He established that this was passed out of committee unanimously and on the consent calendar.

Dan Bennett - New Hampshire Auto Dealers Association

- Mr. Bennett testified in support of House Bill 354.
- He established that his organization runs an education foundation and works with the twenty high schools participating in the CTE program and five community colleges.
- He expressed that he viewed this bill as a talent acquisition bill. He stated that this bill allows CTE schools to acquire talent from individuals in the industry with hands-on experience.
- He expressed that giving the Department of Education the authority to write the rules to encompass the experiential credentials necessary would create another tool for acquisition.