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TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: House Education Committee
FROM: Dr. Amy Fowler, Deputy Agency of Education
TOPIC: [S. 257 Draft 8.1](#) Section 11
DATE: April 12, 2018

Overview

Section 11 has been added to the miscellaneous education bill to amend §1696 so that individuals who are employed by regional CTE centers that participate in NEASC accreditation, specifically those that have adopted a “school-based teacher quality and performance measurement program” would be exempted from licensing requirements.

Response

The current language modifies [§1696](#) which describes the various methods for individual licensing. This is subject to the overarching orientation of [§1692](#) which specifically states that this chapter applies to educators in public schools. If the language is passed as written, only independent schools would be affected. Public CTE centers must comply with state requirements for licensure to maintain NEASC accreditation; they cannot opt for “school-based teacher quality and performance measurement program.”¹ Changing licensing statute will result in confusion and ambiguity.

The AOE believes the legislative intent is to exempt independent schools operating CTE programs from the requirement to license. The statute that is more pertinent that is [§1531](#). This statute confers on the State Board of Education the authority to ensure that “career technical education is equally available to students and is of *consistent quality* in all parts of the State”¹⁶ V.S.A § 1531 (emphasis added). To ensure consistent quality, the State Board passed the [State Board of Education Rules 2370- CTE](#) rules that require each “program has an instructor with the required licensure and competencies to instruct in the program’s core competencies,” (Rule 2380, 1.G).

If the legislature wishes to exempt independent school CTE programs from the CTE Rules, the remedy is to modify this language authorizing the Vermont State Board to accept variable quality and implementation across CTE centers rather than the current language that strives for equity across all settings. This seems inconsistent with the values of Vermont and our legislative representatives.

¹ [NEASC Public CTE Center Standards 2015](#) page 5