
TESTIMONY

Testimony To: Senate Education Committee

Respectfully Submitted by: Sean Cousino, AOE Deputy CFO
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Subject: **Agency of Education Feedback on H.883**

Date: April 12, 2024

Concerns Identified with House Passed Version

AOE's review identified the following concerns, with narrative, as appropriate:

- **Sec. A.107 – New Positions**: No CTE Education Programs Coordinator (E.100(a)(1)(C) in Gov. Recommend). Recommendation: **OPPOSE**
- **Sec. B.501**: Personal services total reduced by (\$100,000) due to lack of CTE position. Recommendation: **OPPOSE**
- **Sec. B.504 and E.504 – Adult Education and Literacy**: \$281,283 General Fund added for the Adult Education and Secondary Credential program. AOE cannot account for this change, aside from advocacy pressure from providers. Recommendation: **OPPOSE**
- In **Sec. B.504.1 - Flexible Pathways** the House shows a decrease of (\$381,245) over the Governor's recommend. However, in **Sec. E.504.1**, there are more concerning changes. That Section:
 - Defunds the High School Completion Program (slated for repeal in H.874 – Misc. Ed.): (\$1.9 million). Not governor recommend, but AOE has no concerns (**SUPPORT**).
 - Transfers the balance for HSCP to the new Adult Education and Literacy Construct created in H.874. (**SUPPORT/NO CONCERN**)
 - Shorts the Early College appropriation in (b)(4) by (\$1 million), and transfers \$618,755 to Adult Education and Literacy, leaving (\$381,245) Education Fund on the total. This is of significant concern, as Early College is an entitlement that AOE budgets to fund, and this action will likely create a shortfall as program participation is **increasing** rather than **decreasing**. High Concern, **OPPOSE**.
- In total, Across B.504 and B.504.1, the House is increasing funding for Adult Education and Secondary Credential by \$900,038. AOE cannot account for this change on any basis other than advocacy pressure.
Finally, this program splits the cost of the Adult Education and Literacy program into 60% General Fund and 40% Education Fund. This represents a long-standing series of “flipping” funding sources between Ed fund and Gen fund for adult education. Because adult education is focused on students getting their high school diploma, Ed fund



dollars are an appropriate use. However, this year we do not recommend any increases to Ed fund dollars for AEL beyond what we proposed in Governor's budget.

- For **Sec. 505 - Adjusted Education Payment**, the adjusted education projection continues to decrease, to 1,910,951,000, as reported to House Committee on Ways and Means (March 28, 2024), representing a decrease of (\$8 million)
 - Furthermore, after reviewing this section during the House Budget Process, AOE recommends that the **category aid for English Language Learners** included in this line be broken out into its own appropriation. This was included in the Gov's Recommend in this line, at the amount of \$3 million, though that number has decreased by (\$750,000) based on frozen weighted pupils to \$2,250,000. A new appropriations line could be established at that number.
 - If a new appropriation is established for the ELL categorical aid, **B.505** would be be 1,907,951,000.
- **Sec. B.508 - Education - Nutrition**: Reduces Education Fund appropriation for Child Nutrition – Universal Meals (\$2.5 million). This is based on updated AOE projections, no concerns. Recommendation: **SUPPORT**
- **Sec. B.507 – Merger Support Grants**: With weighted pupils frozen, the \$3 million appropriation can be reduced to \$1,800,000, for a savings of (\$1.2 million).