

SB176 INTRODUCED



1 SB176
2 YS3F626-1
3 By Senators Chesteen, Singleton, Orr, Roberts, Williams,
4 Kitchens, Shelnuttt, Hatcher, Beasley, Allen, Melson
5 RFD: Education Policy
6 First Read: 29-Feb-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Alabama Career RoadMap Act and provide legislative findings.

This bill would require the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to develop a workforce exploration module, completion of which would be required for a student to graduate high school.

This bill would require each student who completes the module to receive a credential at the local community college.

This bill would require ACCS to develop a list of Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities, which may include, but not be limited to, dual enrollment courses, career readiness courses, and other accelerated learning opportunities.

This bill would require each high school student to complete a Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.

This bill would require each local board of education to collaborate with the local community college to facilitate the module and Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities and to allow certain community college personnel into the classroom.

This bill would require ACCS to adopt policies and procedures.



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29 This bill would also require the State Board of
30 Education to adopt rules to implement the module into
31 the career preparedness course of study and amend
32 graduation requirements to reflect this bill.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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39 Relating to public K-12 education and two-year
40 institutions of higher education; to create the Alabama Career
41 RoadMap Act; to provide legislative findings; to require the
42 Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to develop a career
43 readiness module and a list of Career RoadMap Postsecondary
44 Opportunities; to require each public high school student to
45 complete the module and a Career RoadMap Postsecondary
46 Opportunity prior to graduating high school; to require each
47 local board of education to collaborate with local community
48 colleges; and to require ACCS and the State Board of Education
49 to adopt policies, procedures, and rules.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

51 Section 1. (a) This act shall be known and may be cited
52 as the Alabama Career RoadMap Act.

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(b) The purposes of this act are:

54 (1) To promote and provide educational opportunities to
55 high school students by requiring access to and completion of
56 programs that emphasize opportunities in skilled career



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57 pathways; and

58 (2) To support the successful transition of high school
59 students into postsecondary education, training, or the
60 workforce.

61 (c) The Legislature finds and declares:

62 (1) That the Alabama Community College System (ACCS)
63 and its network of community and technical colleges deliver
64 excellent workforce development education and initiatives;

65 (2) That education provided by ACCS and its network of
66 colleges is responsive to industry needs and is vital to
67 increasing the state's labor force participation;

68 (3) That support for ACCS is necessary to continue to
69 bolster the state's education and workforce system; and

70 (4) That creating an initiative in which ACCS may
71 provide high school students with career exploration,
72 information about how to obtain postsecondary education, and
73 access to in-demand career pathways will help students achieve
74 valuable and portable postsecondary degrees, certificates, and
75 credentials.

76 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following
77 terms have the following meanings:

78 (1) ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM or ACCS. The same
79 meaning as Section 16-60-110, Code of Alabama 1975.

80 (2) CAREER ROADMAP POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITY. A program
81 or course that contributes to a student's college and career
82 readiness and which is approved by or offered by ACCS pursuant
83 to Section 4.

84 (3) LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE. The community college or



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85 technical college whose service area includes the local board
86 of education and the schools in its jurisdiction. The term
87 "service area" refers to the area that a community college or
88 technical college serves, as determined by ACCS.

89 (4) MODULE. The workforce exploration module developed
90 by ACCS under Section 3.

91 (5) STUDENT. An individual enrolled in a public high
92 school in the state.

93 Section 3. (a) The Alabama Community College System
94 shall develop and administer a workforce exploration module
95 that emphasizes opportunities in skilled career pathways. The
96 module shall be a minimum of 10 hours of instruction time. The
97 module shall be administered to students by individuals
98 approved by ACCS and the local board of education, including,
99 but not limited to, career coaches or career preparedness
100 teachers.

101 (b) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year:

102 (1) ACCS shall provide the module to each local board
103 of education;

104 (2) Completion of the module shall be required for high
105 school graduation beginning with the 2028-2029 graduating
106 class; and

107 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
108 implement the module into the career preparedness course of
109 study.

110 (c) Each student who successfully completes the module
111 shall receive a credential from the local community college.
112 The credential shall be awarded by the local community college



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113 at no cost to the student.

114 Section 4. (a) The Alabama Community College System
115 shall develop a list of Career RoadMap Postsecondary
116 Opportunities. Appropriate opportunities include, but are not
117 limited to: (i) dual enrollment courses; (ii) career readiness
118 courses; and (iii) other accelerated learning opportunities.

119 (b) (1) Beginning with the 2028-2029 graduating class,
120 each high school student must complete at least one Career
121 RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity as a prerequisite to
122 receiving a high school diploma.

123 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
124 ensure that high school graduation requirements meet the
125 requirements of this act. The board may include rules to
126 exempt students for whom completion of a Career RoadMap
127 Postsecondary Opportunity would be overly burdensome, based on
128 the student's individualized education program (IEP).

129 (c) (1) Each local board of education shall adopt a
130 policy relating to Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities.
131 The policy shall include, but is not limited to: (i) which
132 Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities are available; and
133 (ii) how a student may qualify for a particular Career RoadMap
134 Postsecondary Opportunity.

135 (2) No local board of education may unreasonably deny a
136 student participation in a Career RoadMap Postsecondary
137 Opportunity.

138 Section 5. (a) Each local board of education shall
139 collaborate with the local community college to: (i)
140 facilitate appropriate Career RoadMap Postsecondary



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141 Opportunities; and (ii) assist with the administration of the
142 module.

143 (b) Each local board of education shall allow personnel
144 from the local community college into classrooms for the
145 purposes of complying with subsection (a), provided that:

146 (1) Any community college personnel who enters a
147 classroom pursuant to this subdivision shall comply with the
148 Alabama Child Protection Act of 1999, relating to criminal
149 history background check requirements; and

150 (2) Any community college personnel who has been
151 adjudicated or convicted of an offense that requires
152 registration as a sex offender under Chapter 20A of Title 15,
153 Code of Alabama 1975, may not be permitted into the classroom
154 for purposes related to the implementation or administration
155 of this act.

156 Section 6. (a) ACCS shall adopt policies and procedures
157 to implement and administer this act. ACCS may adopt
158 additional policies and procedures to develop and administer a
159 mentorship program for high school students.

160 (b) Each local board of education shall share relevant
161 student information and data with ACCS in a manner consistent
162 with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of
163 1974 (FERPA) and state law.

164 Section 7. This act shall become effective on June 1,
165 2024.