



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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MEMORANDUM

TO: MLDS Governing Board
FROM: Ross Goldstein
DATE: August 25, 2020
SUBJECT: 2021 Legislation

Purpose

Last year at the December Governing Board meeting, the Board gave its approval for the Center to pursue legislation making changes to the Career Preparation Expansion Act. The resulting legislation was [HB 850](#), sponsored by Delegate Stephanie Smith. The bill passed the House (111-22), but ran out of time due to the shortened legislative session. The purpose of this agenda item is to ask the Board to once again support this legislative change.

Background

Career Preparation Expansion Act (CPEA) requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to collect and provide to the MLDS the following information:

- Professional and occupational licenses from the Department of Labor and Department of Health;
- Vocational certificates from Maryland Community Colleges; and
- Industry certifications from a national certifier that receives state funds.

The Center, in collaboration with MHEC, began working to implement the above requirement. It was mutually decided that the Center would directly collect the data under MHEC's authority. Both parties felt that the direct approach was more efficient and limited the risk and exposure created by having to transfer data multiple times.

However, several concerns were raised by the Assistant Attorney General for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). First, MDH noted that there was no explicit requirement to provide personally identifiable information (PII). Without a direct legal requirement, MDH stated that they could not provide PII data. Secondly, MDH was concerned about providing their data directly to the Center, since the statute required MHEC to collect the data. Finally, MDH felt that there was a lack of representation on the Governing Board.

To address those concerns, changes to the current law are being proposed.

- Authorizing the MLDS Center to directly collect the above information and removes the requirement from MHEC;
- Specifying that the data must include personally identifiable information, which had not been explicitly stated and was a concern for the Department of Health;
- Adding a representative of the executive directors of the Health Occupations Boards to the MLDS Governing Board, which addressed the Department of Health's concern about the lack of representation on the MLDS Governing Board;

- Clarifying that it is the duty of a licensing authority, such as a Health Occupation Board, to provide data to the MLDS, and
- Classifying the above data as "student data," which had not been done in the prior bill, but was necessary to fit in the structure of the MLDS statute.

The proposed changes were discussed and reviewed with AAGs from MHEC, Labor, Health and MLDS and all are in agreement that the changes fully address the concerns raised by MDH. The Governor's Chief Legislative Officer declined to pursue the bill as departmental legislation, but authorized the Center to pursue the bill with a private sponsor.

Action

The Governing Board's approval to pursue this legislative change is requested.