



AIA Birmingham

A chapter of the American Institute of Architects

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ISSUE BRIEF

H.R. 2353: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

(Companion bill in Senate is S. 3217)

The “Career & Technical Education bill” (CTE) reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to help more Americans enter the workforce with the skills necessary to compete for and succeed in high-skilled, in-demand careers. Generally as it relates to architecture, the bill does 3 things:

- Opens new pathways for students to get into design programs (including architectural design programs).
- Allows states to use federal education money to update architectural curriculums.
- Recognizes architecture as being a ‘STEM’ course of study.

Overview:

Excerpt from www.govtrack.us (underlines added): “Specifically, the legislation looks to empower state and local community leaders, improve alignment with in-demand jobs, increase transparency and accountability, and ensure a limited federal role.

“The bill simplifies the requirements states have to follow when applying for federal funds and streamlines the application process to better align it with the process for submitting the state workforce development plan under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act....

“The legislation supports innovative learning opportunities by promoting work-based learning and evaluating CTE providers on their ability to effectively prepare students for the workforce....

“To increase transparency and accountability, H.R. 2353 streamlines the number of performance measures used to evaluate CTE programs and aligns these performance measures with those set by each state under the Every Student Succeeds Act....

“Finally, the legislation ensures a limited federal role by repealing the requirement that states must negotiate their targeted levels of performance with the Secretary of Education, and prevents the Secretary from withholding funds from a state that does not meet certain performance targets. Instead, the bill empowers state leaders to develop an improvement plan that works best for the needs and circumstances in their states....”

Action:

The “Career & Technical Education bill” (CTE) passed both the House and Senate and will go to the President for his approval and enactment.