

**Senate Education
SB2145**

January 16, 2022

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am here to testify in support of SB2145, with proposed amendments.

The State Board for Career and Technical Education has the authority to approve the operations of Postsecondary Career Schools. The reason for this authority is to provide oversight over the operations and to ensure the students enrolling in these programs are protected. They are assured the training they receive is high quality, they have the option to receive refunds, if not satisfied with the training, and there is a process for complaints. Examples of approved Postsecondary Career Schools include Lynnes Welding and Emerging Digital Academy. A requirement, as defined in century code, is to be nationally or regionally credentialed. The reason for this is to assure the content is of high quality and that the program is legitimate and reputable.

SB2145 is an attempt to allow the State Board for Career and Technical Education the ability to exempt an organization that is offering a full-stack software engineering course that was in operation before 2020. This is specifically Emerging Digital Academy (EDA). EDA has been provisionally approved to operate in the state as they have been working with a national accreditor. Statute allows EDA to operate provisionally, as long as they are in good-faith, making progress towards national accreditation.

According to EDA, due to its unique content, they are having difficulty becoming nationally accredited. SB2145, as written, would exempt them from needing to be nationally accredited to operate in the state, but would not allow a similar organization the same exemption.

The Department proposes the following amendments.

Page 1, line 2, remove the period and insert immediately after “to provide for a legislative management study; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.”

Page 2, line 4, insert the following:

“SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - (POSTSECONDARY CAREER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION). *During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the statute for the authorization to operate postsecondary career schools. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.*

This study would allow the state to study the current statute, to determine if there are necessary changes, that will provide schools flexibility, while ensuring student confidence.

SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. *This Act is effective through January 1, 2026, and after that date is ineffective.*

The expiration date would end EDA's authority to operate under current statute, requiring all providers, current and future, to follow new statute, however, allowing the Board time to draft any administrative rules necessary after the 69th legislative session.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. *Section 1 of this Act is declared to be an emergency measure."*

This allows EDA to operate in the upcoming year, as all Postsecondary Career School are required to request reapproval to operate every year. EDA's approval expires June 30, 2023. This law, without an emergency clause, will not take effect until August 1, 2023, so EDA would have to go through the reapproval process with the Board again.

Renumber accordingly

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for any questions.