HOUSE BILL 1722

State of Washington   **69th Legislature**   **2025 Regular Session**

By Representatives Connors and Schmidt

1   AN ACT Relating to state restrictions affecting 16 and 17 year
2 old students participating in secondary career and technical
3 education programs and other state-approved career pathways; adding a
4 new section to chapter 18.73 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
5 43.43 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 49.12 RCW; and creating a
6 new section.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that school
9 districts across the state have spent significant resources to
10 develop and offer skill center programs and career and technical
11 education programs for high school students. Many of these programs
12 are designed to allow students to begin working in the field during
13 or upon completion of the program; however, some state agencies have
14 enacted rules that place age restrictions on when a student can start
15 a program, test for a license or certification, or work in a
16 profession for which they have been issued a certification or
17 license. These restrictions are not required by federal law, are
18 inconsistent with many other states, and are barriers to 16 and 17
19 year old students being able to continue with more advanced
20 coursework or otherwise work in a profession after completing
21 training and certification or licensure.

1   Therefore, the legislature intends to direct specified state
2 agencies to revise rules or policies that have been identified as
3 barriers to 16 and 17 year old students being able to continue with
4 more advanced coursework or otherwise work in a profession after
5 completing training and certification or licensure.

6   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.73
7 RCW to read as follows:
8   The department shall develop a process for authorizing a student
9 who is 16 years of age to begin an emergency medical services
10 training course administered by a state-approved skill center or
11 other bona fide vocational educational program approved by the office
12 of the superintendent of public instruction, provided that the
13 program requires continuous training until the student graduates from
14 high school or turns 18 years of age, whichever is earlier.

15   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43
16 RCW to read as follows:
17   (1) The director of fire protection shall assess its policies
18 affecting students who are participating in fire services training
19 offered at: A community and technical college, including through the
20 running start program established in RCW 28A.600.300; a preparatory
21 secondary career and technical education program under chapter
22 28A.700 RCW, including a program administered by a skill center under
23 chapter 28A.245 RCW; and other relevant educational programs. The
24 policies, including age restrictions for fire services training,
25 examinations, and certification, must be assessed for the purposes of
26 increasing professional and volunteer opportunities in the fire
27 service.
28   (2) The director of fire protection shall report to the
29 legislature by October 1, 2025, on any changes made to its policies
30 and practices and any recommendations on changes to state laws and
31 rules for purposes of improving professional and volunteer
32 opportunities in the fire service.

33   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 49.12
34 RCW to read as follows:
35   The department may not prohibit a minor from participating in an
36 occupation based on the risk of exposure to bodily fluids or
37 transmission of infectious agents if the minor has a valid

1 professional license or certification issued by the department of
2 health under Title 18 RCW and said license or certification requires
3 competency in relevant procedures for preventing transmission of
4 bloodborne pathogens and infectious diseases.

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