



# HOUSE BILL 670: Workforce Credential Grant Program/CCP.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 16, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Willis, Pickett, Campbell, Schietzelt	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Michael Whitfield
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 670 would establish a Career and College Pathways Innovation Challenge Grant Program.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Section 1 would add a new Article to Chapter 115D of the General Statutes to establish the Career and College Pathways Innovation Challenge Grant Program (Program). The Program would seek to meet certain statewide educational attainment and workforce development goals.

House Bill 670 would direct the State Board of Community Colleges (State Board) to adopt necessary rules and policies to administer the Program including those for the purposes of (1) the administration and awarding of grants through a competitive grant process to local and regional partnerships that represent cross-sector collaborations, (2) the use of funds and reporting of expenditures by participating community colleges, and (3) the monitoring and control of spending grant funds. House Bill 670 would allow for up to four percent of the funds appropriated to the Community Colleges System Office for implementation of the Program to be used for administrative costs and up to 10 percent of funds appropriated to the Community College System Office for implementation of the Program to be used for marketing and communications.

To the extent funds are made available for the Program, the State Board would be required to award grants to participating community colleges in an amount up to the lesser of (i) the actual cost associated with an application by a community college or (ii) \$200,000. The State Board would further be required to analyze data pertaining to the Program and report annually by July 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on certain information from the prior academic year.

**Section 2** would direct the State Board to allocate \$2,000,000, notwithstanding Section 1, to be directed to participating community colleges in 40 areas affected by Hurricane Helene in the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years. To the extent that the total amount of grant awards to participating community colleges in the Hurricane Helene affected areas is less than \$2,000,000, the State Board could use those funds to award grants to participating community colleges not in those areas.

**Section 3** would appropriate \$5,000,000, in recurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, from the General Fund to the Community Colleges System Office to implement the provisions of this act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective on July 1, 2025.

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