



Date            February 6, 2015

To              House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee

From           Dana Richardson, HECC Deputy Director, Legislative & Policy Affairs

Subject        House Bill 2410

Good morning Chair Read, Vice Chairs Whisnant and Gallegos, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for Legislative & Policy Affairs at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

I want to give you a brief overview of House Bill 2410, then turn it over to some of the people that worked to put the bill together.

The HECC submitted this bill on behalf of a work group that was supported by the Community Colleges and Workforce Development agency.

Simply put, it would allow community colleges to award training certificates for noncredit courses and programs.

I will leave it to the experts to further explain what that means and why it would be beneficial.

We are aware that this bill may be perceived as negatively impacting private providers of similar courses. However, there is an adverse impact process that is in place for occupational standalone courses that we believe would address those concerns. Ms. Kathy Calise will speak further to that process.

I would like to briefly mention that the work group that developed this bill received an award from the Learning Resources Network for the process they used in developing this innovative business and industry practice.

Thank you for allowing me to share that with you. I'm happy to let the chair of the work group describe the bill further.

I appreciate your time today and would be happy to answer any questions.