



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
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Dover, Delaware 19901  
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The Honorable John Carney  
Governor

John McNeal  
SCPD Director

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 14, 2021

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate  
and House of Representatives

FROM: Terri Hancharick – Chairperson *TH*  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 166 (Funding for Education in Trades)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 166, which is an Act to amend Title 19, Chapter 34 to create the Elevate Delaware program. The program would provide tuition, up to \$10,000, for eligible individuals to obtain training and education in a field that does not require a college degree, such as HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), plumbers, electricians, and construction. In addition, the act allows the Department of Labor to provide eligible individuals with payments to cover basic living expenses while attending the non-degree credit certificate program and up to ninety (90) days following completion of the program to search for a job. SCPD endorses the proposed legislation and has the following observations.

To be eligible for the program, an individual must be a Delaware resident who has achieved a high school diploma, Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards, or

a Delaware secondary credential and enrolled in an approved non-degree credit certificate program.

The Act would create a Workforce Development Board to oversee the program, maintain a list of non-degree credit certificate programs approved for Elevate Delaware, and update the list annually (Section 1. §§ 3404(c)(1) and 3404(c)(1)b.).

Monies to fund the program, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 shall be paid out of the General Fund (Section 4).

A similar bill was introduced in the Senate on February 26, 2021 and is awaiting consideration in committee. Senate Bill 65 also seeks to amend Chapter 34, unemployment compensation dealing with counseling, training, and placement activities, of Title 19, Labor.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our position and observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council

HB 166 funding for education in trades 6-14-21