

H.B. No. 1563

Author/Sponsor: Representative John Fay

Session: 120th Congress, 2026–2027

An Act to help students prepare for the real world after high school or college through school courses teaching them development and control that will be used in their future careers, while also teaching them real-world skills, financial literacy, and preparing them for their future careers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the “Real-World Skills Education Act.”

Section 2. Purpose and Findings

To ensure high school students graduate with real-world life skills and financial literacy, and are prepared for their future careers or college education.

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics (of the U.S. Department of Labor) shows that in December of 2025, the retail trade sector lost a total of 25,000 jobs.

In addition, SHRM reports that the labor participation rate will decline by 2033.

Section 3. Definitions

(a) Real-World Skills

Experiences and skills that students will need for their future lives and careers.

(b) Financial Literacy

The ability to help students engage with the idea of money and how it will be seen in their futures.

(c) Career-ready Programs

Programs that introduce students to different careers and jobs, providing them with a career plan and outline. Each program focused on a different job will be taught separately and in detail by a teacher or someone who was or is related to that career.

Section 4. Substantive Provisions

There will be a requirement for school courses that teach students development and control skills that will be used in their future careers. It will also include a requirement before graduation to teach students what financial literacy is and what taxes, bills, banking, and other financial concepts are. This will help students engage with the idea of money, which they will encounter in the future.

This Act will additionally include career readiness programs, where it will introduce different careers and jobs that can be shown to students to provide them with a potential career plan and outline. Each program with a different job will be taught separately and in detail by a teacher or someone who was or is related to that career.

Section 5. Enforcement/Administration

The Department of Education will be responsible for implementing this Act and will publish yearly reports to monitor progress.

Section 6. Penalties

No penalties are specified at this time.

Analysis of Research

The research shown above demonstrates a common issue in today's society related to education and curriculum, and how it affects current and future students. Students do not graduate high school with a clear understanding of what the real world looks like and what they need to be prepared for. This can cause students to enter college without clear pathways and areas of success, which have been shown to lead to college dropouts and more student debt.

In addition to job shortages in the U.S., this creates a more serious issue that leaves students in an awkward place. As the population continues to age, the U.S. will need more younger workers in healthcare, technology, and other sectors to sustain the system in the future. As students learn less and less about the real world and skills, the job shortage will continue to worsen. Overall, in line with John Fay's view on local control in education and curriculum, it will encourage schools to teach students the experiences and skills they need for their future lives and careers.

Bipartisan Appeal

This bill can be bipartisan because education and the job market play an important role in the future, and without stable jobs, the economy would suffer. For Republicans, this bill may

appeal because it supports a highly educated school system that prepares students for the real world. It also helps students get more stable jobs, which improves the job market and system. On the other hand, Democrats may support this bill because it can, overall, provide students with the best education, regardless of their families' social class. Additionally, this provides students with the opportunity to take courses and programs that are helpful pathways to their future, while preparing them for the risks of debt and bills during or after college. Lastly, it helps low-income families by giving their children better access to helpful education. Overall, both the Republican and Democratic parties aim to improve education and resources to better prepare their students for the real world, including their families, income, and the economy.

Procedural/Administrative Provisions

Severability Clause: If one part of the Act is found unconstitutional, the rest of the law remains in effect.

Effective Date: This Act takes effect on November 1, 2026.

Summary

The bill being proposed to address this issue in education and curriculum is the Real-World Skills Education Act. This Act is proposed to help students prepare for the real world after high school or college. The school courses will teach them development and control that will be used in their future careers.

This bill will also include a requirement before graduation to teach students what financial literacy is, and what taxes, bills, banking, etc., are. This will help students engage with the idea of

money, which they will encounter in the future.

This Act will also include career exploration programs that introduce students to different careers and jobs to help them develop a potential career plan and outline. Each program with a different job will be taught separately and in detail by a teacher or someone who was or is related to that career. Lastly, it will also give upperclassmen the chance to participate in organizations or internships, providing them with experience and insight into a job they are interested in.

Works Cited

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