



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)  
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### **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 1, 2021

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

**FROM:** Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson  
GACEC

**RE:** **House Bill No. 166 Creation of the Elevate Delaware Program**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed **House Bill No. 166**, which will create the Elevate Delaware program. The program would provide tuition, up to \$10,000.00, 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. Council **supports** the proposed legislation.

In addition to creating the Elevate Delaware program, the legislation will allow 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 90 days following completion of the program to search for a job.

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.).

This Bill, if enacted, would provide both an opportunity and monies to individuals who want to attend training programs for a skilled trade rather than attend college. This program would

enable participants to have a career in the trades. Delaware is seeing a shortage in skilled tradespeople as the number of tradespeople exceeds the number of new workers entering trades. This legislation will improve access to alternative skills training programs and provide additional post-secondary opportunities for Delaware students, particularly students with disabilities.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our endorsement and observations. Please feel free to contact me or Pam Weir at the GACEC office should you have any questions.