ATRA OPPOSES HB2234
Extending JTED Bonding Authority Beyond Main Campuses

By expanding JTED Satellite programs and their inefficiencies, HB2234 undermines the original intent for which JTEDs were created. In 1990, ATRA supported the formation of Joint Technological Education Districts (JTEDs) under the premise that efficiencies would be created by funding expensive vocational programs on a multi-district level. Unfortunately, such efficiencies have not always been realized. In 2004, the Auditor General reported inefficiencies that result from JTEDs using the "Satellite" model (funding JTED courses taught by member school districts). The following four excerpts from the Auditor General's report describe these inefficiencies in contrast to the Central JTED model (JTED courses taught on a main campus):

- "Unlike central courses, member district courses, including their Satellite courses, were typically no more extensive than usual high school classes."

- "While the Central model provides enhanced vocational education through resource pooling, the Satellite model appears to provide only an additional funding stream for the JTED and its member districts."

- "Member districts do not appear to be spending all of the additional monies received for Satellite courses on vocational education, and JTEDs exercise little or no oversight of these Satellite courses, providing almost no input for course content or other improvements."

- "Because Satellite monies are passed through the JTED, which retains a portion of the monies for administrative and other expenses, this method of funding is less efficient than directly funding the districts' vocational education courses."

Funding vocational training through the Satellite JTED model is inefficient. The Legislature should not expand these inefficiencies by granting JTEDs bonding authority beyond a main campus.

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