

S.T.A.R.T.



BILL OVERVIEW:

Student to Adulthood Readiness Training, or *START*, will be a required course for high school graduation. Students will learn skills that prepare them for adulthood including financial literacy, professional development, basic mechanics, cooking skills, how to access resources in the area, and more while connecting to members of their local community. Doing this will prepare youth and young adults for success, while simultaneously serving as a homelessness prevention mechanism.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT VOICE:

Youth and young adult advocates at The Mockingbird Society identified that they did not leave high school and enter adulthood prepared with the skills they needed to survive. Many youth and young adults do not have someone at home to teach these skills, but they are crucial to preparedness for life's many unpredictable circumstances. To help youth and young adults feel prepared and safe to thrive in life, life skills need to be brought to the classroom and required for graduation.

BILL SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS:

- Sponsored by . . .
- Community supporters are Casey Life Skills

ACTION STEPS:

- *The Mockingbird Society is preparing to create a curriculum, pilot it as an elective at a local school, and create a report on achieved outcomes.*

BACKGROUND:

- Youth and young adults identified that after high school, they entered adulthood unprepared to succeed in many areas of life like cooking and nutrition, financial literacy, accessing local resources, etc.
- Many youth and young adults do not have access to parents or caregivers that can teach these skills
- Youth and young adults struggle to balance adulthood with navigating basic skills they should've learned previously
- Youth and young adults are not required or provided a chance to achieve these skills in high school, leaving them at a disadvantage

IMPACTS:

- Youth and young adults learn valuable skills to take into adulthood that help them succeed while also preventing future homelessness
- With practical real-world knowledge, youth and young adults live healthier, happier, and more full lives
- Youth and young adults connect with community partners that can lead to job and job training connections
- Youth and young adults can pass on these skills to others around them, benefiting the entire community
- *START*- as a graduation requirement- will mitigate youth and young adult homelessness and financial insecurity

If you know of any potential community partners or supporters for this topic, please contact Mockingbird's Acting Public Policy Director / Lobbyist at sam@sdmartinconsulting.com