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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6898

BILL NUMBER: HB 1246

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 29, 2008

BILL AMENDED: Jan 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Student Graduation Plan and Online Learning.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Austin

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill does the following.

Online Learning: The bill creates an Interim Study Committee on K-12 Virtual Learning.

Concurrent Enrollment Partnership: This bill establishes the concurrent enrollment partnership to coordinate dual credit programs among Indiana high schools and state educational institutions.

Graduation Plan: The bill changes the student career plan to the student graduation plan.

Dual Credits: The bill provides up to five dual credit courses to all high school students at no cost, subject to appropriation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Online Learning:* This bill establishes an Interim Study Committee on K-12 Virtual Learning. The committee is to operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$9,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members.

The committee is to review and make recommendations on:

1. The availability of virtual learning in Indiana.
2. How virtual learning services are provided by other states.
3. Standards of quality and alignment with Indiana's content standards.

4. Accreditation standards and pricing for virtual learning services.
5. Tuition reimbursement for students enrolled in virtual classes provided outside their home school.
6. Other issues.

Concurrent Enrollment Partnership: The bill creates the Indiana Concurrent Enrollment Partnership to foster innovation and collaboration among state educational institutions and school corporations. The partnership is to develop a plan to align dual credit programs and make available to each high school up to five postsecondary courses. The partnership membership is to include:

1. Concurrent enrollment directors from each state educational institution.
2. Person appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
3. Person appointed by the Commission for Higher Education.
4. Person appointed by the Indiana Association of School Business Officials.
5. Person appointed by the Indiana Association of School Boards.
6. Person appointed by the Indiana Association of School Principals representing a secondary schools.
7. A high school teacher participating in a concurrent enrollment program appointed by the principal of the high school with the largest enrollment in the concurrent enrollment program.

The Commission for Higher Education is to provide staff and budgetary support. The partnership would be funded within the Commission's current resources.

(Revised) *Dual Credits:* Subject to appropriation by the legislature, the bill could increase state expenditures for higher education. The state currently provides an adjustment for state institutions with a history of growth. The adjustment is based on a four-year rolling average. The adjustment for enrollment change was \$1,750 per student for FY 2008 and \$3,500 for FY 2009. The increase in expenditures would depend on the increase in enrollments.

Current law requires schools to offer at least two courses to high school students who qualify to enroll in dual credit or advancement courses. The bill would increase the number to five courses. State educational institutions could have increased costs due to providing dual credit courses to local schools. The additional costs would be covered from tuition revenue and any increase in the higher education formula. Additional state expenditures would be subject to appropriation.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Graduation Plan:* The bill changes the name of the career plan to the graduation plan and has the plan to begin in the 6th grade instead of 9th grade. The fiscal impact of the change should be minor.

Dual Credits: The fiscal impact on local schools should be minor.

Explanation of Local Revenues: See *Explanation of Local Expenditures.*

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education, State Educational Institutions.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources:

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