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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>SB208</u>	Sponsor	<u>Sapien</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.204725.2</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SPAC</u>
Short Title	<u>School Advanced Placement Policy</u>		
Analyst	<u>Rogne</u>	Original Date	<u>2/6/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 208 (SB208) would require public postsecondary institutions to accept passing scores of three or higher on the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) examinations for course credit. In addition, SB208 would require the Higher Education Department (HED) to report institutional AP policies to the Legislature and the governor.

FISCAL IMPACT

SB208 does not contain an appropriation.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB208 establishes a statewide AP policy beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. As part of General Education requirements, public postsecondary institutions would have to accept AP scores of three or higher for course credit in the corresponding course. If the institution does not offer the corresponding course, it would have to grant elective credit.

SB208 requires postsecondary institutions to determine the AP score required for each examination for the institution to grant credit, and to post the policy on its website by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

In addition, SB208 would require HED, in cooperation with all postsecondary educational institutions, to collect and report the AP policy and corresponding research for each institution. HED would be required to file a report including findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the governor.

According to HED, the agency is working currently with New Mexico's public postsecondary educational institutions to implement a common course numbering system, which includes common course descriptions and student learning outcomes. While all of the common courses will be identified by August 2017, the common course numbering system will not be fully

implemented until fall 2018. Because SB208 requires postsecondary institutions to develop an AP policy by fall 2017, institutions would have to revisit their AP policies as the common course numbering system is implemented, duplicating efforts.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB208 would require each postsecondary institution to determine how many credits would be awarded and at what level for a score of three or higher on the AP exam and to publish this information on its website. Postsecondary institutions would have to develop policies to ensure the objectives tested on the AP exam are consistent with the objectives taught in the course for which the student receives credit. Each postsecondary institution would have to dedicate personnel to research, develop, and publish its AP course credit policy by fall 2017.

According to HED, SB208 assigns new functions and duties to HED. SB208 would require HED to collect and report each postsecondary institution's AP course granting policy, how it was derived, and to make recommendations for improvements. These additional functions and duties would likely increase HED's administrative costs.

RELATED BILLS

SB31, Remove Certain Graduation Requirements, removes the requirement students must take an AP, honors, dual credit, or distance learning course in order to graduate from high school.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Higher Education Department

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