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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Beffort **DATE TYPED** 2/21/05 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Require School Use of Standard Grading System **SB** 70/aSEC/aSFL#1

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI		See Narrative		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFL Amendment 1

Senate Floor Amendment 1 adds the following to the bill: Nothing in this bill prohibits “weighted” credits for honors and advanced placement.

Synopsis of SEC Amendment

Senate Education Amendment 1 changes “standard” to “standardized” in three places in the bill. According to PED, this will require public school districts to use either an alphabetic or numeric grading system based upon the 4.0 or one hundred percent scale but require the same grading criteria throughout the state. This will remove PED’s concern about establishing a statewide criteria and the corresponding cost originally submitted.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 70 enacts a new section of the public school code requiring PED adopt a standardized alphabetic or numeric grading system based upon the 4.0 or one hundred percent scale to be used by all public schools in the state.

Significant Issues

PED identifies the following issues:

1. Grading is a responsibility of local school boards. This bill would take away that local board authority.
2. PED establishes content standards, benchmarks and performance standards for each district. A meaningful uniform statewide grading system would accurately report student attainment of standards. And,
3. Adopting either an alphabetic or numeric grading system requires developing comparable measures at each grade level, for each subject, if grades are to represent the same level of student attainment across the state.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

PED estimates that it would cost approximately \$971 thousand to develop a statewide grading system. It states “such efforts are complex, labor intensive and expensive.” For example, the standards based assessment is a multi-year effort to develop rubrics for science standards and has an estimated cost of \$1.8 million. The agency states neither it nor the school districts can absorb the cost of such an effort.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED will have to establish by regulation a standardized grading system and change administrative rules accordingly, especially “Standards for Excellence.”

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

Districts will continue to develop grading systems.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Should a new statute be made because one district is changing its grading system?
2. Is the intent to have a standardized grading nomenclature or to have standardized grading criteria?

GAC/yr