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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sapient ORIGINAL DATE 2/06/17
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE School Advanced Placement Policy SB 208

ANALYST Dulany

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 108a/HEC, SB 31, and SB 103a/SEC

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, Senate Bill 208 requires public postsecondary institutions to accept a score of 3 or higher on the Advanced Placement (AP) examination for postsecondary-level course credit. The bill requires institutions that offer a corresponding course for a particular AP exam as part of their general education degree requirements to accept a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam for general education course credit. If an institution does not have a course corresponding to an AP exam, SB 208 requires the institution to award elective course credit to students who receive a 3 or higher on an AP exam.

SB 208 requires each public postsecondary educational institution to determine the score for each AP exam for which the institution is granting course credit. Institutions are required to publish their updated credit-granting policies on their websites before the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year.

SB 208 requires HED, in cooperation with all public postsecondary institutions, to collect and report the credit-granting policy for AP at each institution, as well as the research used by each institution to determine the level of credit and the number of credits provided for the AP exam score, and file its findings with the Legislature and the governor. Finally, SB 208 requires each

institution to provide HED with all necessary data, in accordance with the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, to conduct its analysis.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HED does not indicate a fiscal impact. Higher education institutions did not provide agency responses to SB 208. HED notes higher education institutions will have to dedicate personnel to research, develop, and publish their AP exam course credit policies. In general, AP course credit policies are found in each institution's course catalog or other academic advising documents. Because The College Board references and outlines these policies on its website, it is likely expenses to institutions to perform these functions would be minimal.

Allowing AP exams to count toward college credit may result in savings to the student. The AP exam costs \$93. This cost may be reduced if the student qualifies for AP test fee-reduction assistance. A three credit hour course for an in-state student at a higher education institution ranges from \$105 at New Mexico Junior College to \$745 at the University of New Mexico.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

AP exam course credit policies vary among New Mexico's higher education institutions. The University of New Mexico (UNM) lists 35 AP exams that count toward college credit. The amount of credit a student can receive from UNM ranges from three credit hours to 15 credit hours per test. UNM grants credit for several courses on a sliding scale, depending on the student's score on the AP exam. For example, a score of 3 on the Spanish Language and Culture AP exam provides the student with six credit hours for Spanish 101 and 102. If the student achieves a score of 4 or higher, he or she is granted 15 credit hours for Spanish 101, 102, 201, 202, and 302.

Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) grants college credit for 21 AP exams, ranging from three credit hours to eight credit hours, depending on the subject area. NNMC requires a score of 3 to achieve college credit, with the exception of the English Language/Literature and Composition exams which require a score of 4 or higher.

Western New Mexico University's (WNMU) academic advising handbook acknowledges that AP passage may result in college credit; however, the handbook does not list which AP exams count toward which courses. WNMU instead refers students to the institution's Academic Support Center for individual academic department standards.

HED reports it is working with New Mexico's public higher education 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, according to the department, the common course numbering system will not be fully implemented until fall 2018. The department notes because this bill requires higher education institutions to develop an AP policy by fall 2017, the institutions will have to revisit their AP policies as the common course numbering system comes on line. HED suggests this will duplicate efforts.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB 31 removes requirements for high school students to take an AP, honors, dual credit, or distance learning course in order graduate.

HB 108a/HEC and SB 103a/SEC amend provisions in the Post-Secondary Education Articulation Act related to articulation, lower-division courses, and transfer modules.

TD/jle/sb