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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Romero, G/ Lara/ Figueroa/Garratt **ORIGINAL DATE** _____ **LAST UPDATED** 2/12/19 **HB** 420

SHORT TITLE School Advanced Placement Policy and Reporting **SB** _____

ANALYST Chilton

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|---------|---------|------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Total | Minimal | Minimal | NFI | Minimal | Nonrecurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

- Higher Education Department (HED)
- Public Education Department (PED)
- New Mexico State University (NMSU)
- New Mexico Technical Institute (NMTI)
- New Mexico Independent Community Colleges (NMICC)
- Mesalands Community College (MCC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 420 would require that New Mexico state colleges and universities grant credit for any advanced placement examination taker who has scored a “3” or more on the advanced placement test. The credit would be given in a corresponding course, if it exists, or as an elective credit if there were no corresponding course at the student’s institution. If a college or university could demonstrate evidence showing that a score of three is not adequate, it would not need to comply; otherwise updated credit policies would need to be published before the start of the 2019-2020 school year. HED would report on compliance with this proviso and its recommendations to the governor and the legislature, based on Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)-compliant submissions from each institution.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No appropriation is made. Each college and university would have to devote some personnel

time to developing, publicizing and reporting its policies written to comply with this bill. However, once these had been accomplished, such a policy might actually decrease decision-making time for each college and university, given that the bill would make automatic the granting of credit to those receiving a “3” or greater, and not granting credit if the score were “1” or “2.”

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Information from Score.com regarding Advanced Placement Exams

AP Exam Grading Scale

AP Exams are scored on a scale of 1-5. An AP Exam score combines the scores received in the multiple-choice and open-ended sections of the exam. These scores tell the colleges and universities who receive them how well a student performed in a college-level AP course. A score of 1 indicates 'no recommendation' while a score of 5 translates to 'extremely well qualified.' A score of 3 is the minimum required to demonstrate you are 'qualified' to successfully complete an introductory college course in the given subject. How the AP Exams Are Scored. The score you receive on an AP Exam is a combination of your multiple-choice score and open-ended section score, which has been converted to a score on the 1-5 scale through certain mathematical processes.

The multiple-choice questions are scored by a computer, with the score being equal to the number of correct responses. Highly qualified college professors and AP teachers complete the scoring of the open-ended section of the exam.

Receiving College Credit for AP Exam Scores. If you are seeking credit or placement for any AP Exam scores, you must ensure that the colleges and universities in which you're interested receive copies of your official AP score report. You may select one college or university to receive a score report on your exam answer sheet, and you can send your scores to multiple institutions from your official College Board online account for additional fees. Policies on granting placement or credit on the basis of AP Exam scores vary by institution.

Most colleges and universities, however, will provide credit for scores of 3 or more [emphasis added], though not all colleges and universities accept all AP Exam scores. To determine which scores your prospective college or university will accept, visit the official College Board AP website to conduct an AP credit policy search on the institution.

Advanced placement tests are administered by the College Board, based on high school students having taken advanced courses to approximate college level courses in the following subjects:

AP Research

AP Seminar

AP Art History

AP Music Theory

AP Studio Art: 2-D Design

AP Studio Art: 3-D Design

AP Studio Art: Drawing

AP English Language and Composition

AP English Literature and Composition

AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP European History

AP Human Geography

AP Macroeconomics

AP Microeconomics

AP Psychology

AP United States Government and Politics

AP United States History

AP World History

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AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Computer Science A
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Statistics
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
AP Physics C: Mechanics

AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based
AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based
AP Chinese Language and Culture
AP French Language and Culture
AP German Language and Culture
AP Italian Language and Culture
AP Japanese Language and Culture
AP Latin
AP Spanish Language and Culture
AP Spanish Literature and Culture

The higher educational institutions responding to this bill differ in their support for it, despite the fact that PED indicates that there is already a statewide Advanced Placement Policy developed with representatives from chief academic officers at each state institution, requiring that the schools accept scores of “3” or more on any of the 35 of the 38 Advanced Placement exams accepted by the schools. NMSU, for example, states that the bill would “establish consistency in granting AP credit and formalize reporting of creds awarded.” NMICC states that “All New Mexico Independent Community Colleges are currently following the existing HED policy.” On the other hand, New Mexico Tech states “The legislation significantly narrows the already adopted Higher Education Department policies on AP scores and their corresponding course credit equivalencies which are currently being implemented across the state. The additional step required of Higher Education Institutions to obtain permission to require higher scores places an undue burden on these institutions, particularly the research institutions granting STEM degrees. The current AP policy already addresses standardization across HEIs with the appropriate level of score required for its associated course credit. Lowering the scores to a standard of 3 across all subjects could result in students being poorly prepared for the next level course. The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech) does not support this legislation.”

PED notes that 16,103 public school students took AP tests in the year 2017-2018, and 5,965 of them scored “3” or higher (37.0%).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HED notes that it would be required to report to the governor and the legislature on the implementation of these policies.

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