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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6914

BILL NUMBER: HB 1438

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 18, 2021

BILL AMENDED: Mar 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Course Access Program.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Cook

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Raatz

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill provides that, not later than June 30, 2021, the Department of Education (department) shall implement the course access program in the manner prescribed by the state Board of Education (State Board). It provides that the State Board shall establish requirements: (1) that a course provider must meet to be eligible for authorization by the department; (2) that a course access program course must meet to be eligible for approval by the department; and (3) for a course provider to appeal a decision by the department denying or revoking authorization of a course provider or approval of a particular course access program course.

The bill requires the department to: (1) register and authorize course providers; (2) provide advertising for the course access program; and (3) monitor course access program courses and course providers to ensure compliance with the terms of the course access program course's approval and course provider's authorization; in accordance with requirements established by the State Board. It provides that a school corporation may be authorized as a course provider. It requires the department to approve a civics course access program course that meets certain requirements.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2021.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would transfer from the Department of Education (DOE) to the State Board of Education (SBOE) the authority to establish requirements that:

- (1) a course provider must meet in order to qualify as an authorizer; and
- (2) a course access program course must meet to be eligible for approval by the DOE.

The SBOE would also have to establish an appeals process whereby a course provider can appeal a decision

by the DOE to the SBOE.

These requirements could represent an additional workload [and/or expenditure] on the SBOE outside of its routine administrative functions, and existing staffing and resource levels, if currently being used to capacity, may be insufficient for full implementation. The extent to which additional resources would be allocated would depend on how much of the current authorization and review procedures developed by the DOE is incorporated into the processes to be established by the SBOE.

The additional resources could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another program or with new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend on legislative and administrative actions.

(Revised) *DOE*: Approving a civics course, and fulfilling its other responsibilities as outlined in the bill in accordance with the requirements established by the SBOE, could increase DOE's workload. Any additional resources required could be mitigated by the potential reduction in resources it previously had to allocate to the functions that this bill transfers to the SBOE. If additional resources are required they could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another program.

Additional Information: The Indiana Course Access Program is designed to assist school districts and schools create opportunities for high school students to complete their individualized graduation pathways. Students can take courses from a collection of offerings from authorized course providers. There are currently 132 approved courses in the course catalog and seven course providers.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) Under the bill, a school corporation may apply to the State Board to be authorized as a course provider. Any additional resources required to support the application would have to be funded from the school corporation's current budget.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Denial of Enrollment*: Under current law, a school corporation could deny enrollment of an eligible student in a course access program course if the student's enrollment would exceed the requirements for a normal full course load at the school corporation. This bill revokes this rule if the student agrees to pay for the course.

State Agencies Affected: State Board of Education; Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: Indiana Course Access Portal Report, November 1, 2019.

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