

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 616

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCKNIGHT

SCHOOLS/HIGH SCHOOL: Creates and provides for a program to provide funding for dual enrollment expenses for public high school students

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part II of Chapter 18-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to
3 be comprised of R.S. 17:2951 through 2955, relative to dual enrollment; to create
4 and provide for the administration of a program to provide funding for dual
5 enrollment expenses for public high school students; to provide relative to the
6 eligibility of students participating in the program; to provide relative to program
7 funds; to require the state Department of Education to submit annual reports to the
8 legislature relative to the program; to provide relative to rules; to provide relative to
9 definitions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. Part II of Chapter 18-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
12 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:2951 through 2955, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 PART II. DUAL ENROLLMENT MICROGRANT PROGRAM

14 §2951. Definitions

15 As used in this Section the following terms have the following meanings,
16 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 (1) "Account" means an account established pursuant to this Part and
18 composed of funds deposited on behalf of a student eligible to participate in the
19 program.

1 (2) "Account funds" means the funds deposited into an account on behalf of
2 a participating student.

3 (3) "Course" means either of the following types of dual enrollment courses:

4 (a) An academic course, the successful completion of which results in earned
5 credit that may be transferred to a public postsecondary education institution and
6 applied toward an undergraduate degree.

7 (b) A career and technical education course aligned with the career major
8 option, pursuant to R.S. 17:183.1 et seq., that may be transferred for credit to a
9 public postsecondary education institution and applied toward a credential from such
10 institution.

11 (4) "Department" means the state Department of Education.

12 (5) "Dual enrollment" means the enrollment of a high school student in a
13 postsecondary course for which both high school and postsecondary credit may be
14 earned.

15 (6) "Dual enrollment expenses" means tuition, fees, and textbooks or other
16 instructional materials required by a public postsecondary education institution for
17 a dual enrollment course that is aligned with a student's individual graduation plan.

18 (7) "Parent" means a parent, legal guardian, custodian, or other person or
19 entity with legal authority to act on behalf of a student.

20 (8) "Participating student" means a student who has been determined to be
21 eligible to participate in the program and for whom an account has been established
22 pursuant to this Part.

23 (9) "Program" means the program created by this Part.

24 (10) "State board" means the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
25 Education.

26 §2952. Program creation and administration; powers and duties of the State Board
27 of Elementary and Secondary Education and state Department of Education;
28 rules

1 A. The Dual Enrollment Microgrant Program is hereby created. The
2 department shall administer the program, and the state board shall adopt rules and
3 regulations for the administration of the program which shall, at minimum, provide
4 for the following:

5 (1) Determination of the eligibility of students to participate in the program.

6 (2) Audits of the program and accounts.

7 (3) The authority of the department to deem any participating student
8 ineligible for the program and to refer a case involving the misuse of account funds
9 to the attorney general for investigation.

10 (4) The authority of the department to contract with a nonprofit organization
11 for the administration of the program or parts of the program.

12 §2953. Account funds

13 A. The department shall allocate to each account, from funds appropriated
14 or otherwise made available for the program, up to one thousand two hundred dollars
15 per school year.

16 B. The department shall develop a system for parents to direct account funds
17 by electronic funds transfer, automated clearing house transfer, the use of a debit
18 card, or another system. The department may contract with a private financial
19 management firm to manage the payment system.

20 C.(1) Account funds shall be used only for dual enrollment expenses for the
21 participating student. Unused funds in an account, up to fifty percent of the total
22 funds deposited into the account for the current school year, shall be retained in the
23 student's account for the following school year.

24 (2) The account shall be closed and the funds in the account shall be returned
25 to the state general fund if the student is determined to be no longer eligible, if an
26 account has been inactive for one year, or if a parent fails to comply with the
27 provisions of this Part or state board rules pertaining to the program.

1 D. Account funds do not constitute taxable income of the parent of the
2 participating student and shall not be claimed as a credit, deduction, exemption, or
3 rebate under Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

4 §2954. Student eligibility; initial and continuing

5 A. A student is initially eligible for an account if he is eligible to participate
6 in dual enrollment pursuant to applicable policies of the Board of Regents and the
7 participating institution, his parent submits an application for an account to the
8 department in accordance with program timelines, and his parent signs an agreement
9 promising to only use funds for dual enrollment expenses and to comply with all
10 other program requirements.

11 B. A participating student is eligible to continue to participate in the program
12 until he receives a high school diploma or its equivalent or his account is closed.

13 §2955. Reports

14 Not later than April thirtieth of each year, the department shall submit a
15 written report to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on
16 Education, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget regarding the
17 implementation of the program. The report, at a minimum, shall include the
18 following information:

19 (1) The total number of students participating in the program, the number of
20 institutions participating in the program, and number of courses taken.

21 (2) The courses disaggregated by system, institution, subject matter, the
22 percentage that were academic courses, and the percentage that were career and
23 technical education courses.

24 (3) Data on how students performed academically in the dual enrollment
25 courses, including whether or not they earned high school or postsecondary credit.

26 (4) An analysis of the return on the state's investment in the program.

27 Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to designate R.S.
28 17:2941 through 2943 as Part I of Chapter 18-A of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,

1 entitled "General Provisions", and to change each reference to "this Chapter" in R.S. 17:2943
2 to "this Part".

3 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
7 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 616 Original

2022 Regular Session

McKnight

Abstract: Creates and provides for administration of a program for the purpose of providing funding for dual enrollment expenses for public high school students.

Dual enrollment, generally

Present law defines "dual enrollment" as the enrollment of a secondary school student in a postsecondary course for which both secondary school and postsecondary credit may be earned and defines "courses" as follows:

- (1) Academic courses, the successful completion of which results in earned credit that may be transferred to a public postsecondary education institution and applied toward an undergraduate degree.
- (2) Career and technical education courses aligned with the career major option that may be transferred for credit to a public postsecondary education institution and applied toward a credential from such institution.

Proposed law retains present law.

Dual Enrollment Microgrant Program; creation and administration

Proposed law creates the Dual Enrollment Microgrant Program, though which funding is allocated to individual accounts for the purpose of funding dual enrollment expenses for public high school students. Provides for program administration by the state Dept. of Education (DOE) in accordance with State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rules. Defines "dual enrollment expenses" as tuition, fees, and textbooks or other instructional materials required by a public postsecondary education institution (institution) for a dual enrollment course that is aligned with a student's individual graduation plan.

Funds

Proposed law requires DOE to:

- (1) Allocate to each account annually, from funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the program, up to \$1,200 per school year.

- (2) Develop a system for parents to direct account funds electronic funds transfer, automated clearing house transfer, the use of a debit card, or another system.

Proposed law further provides as follows:

- (1) Limits authorized use of funds to dual enrollment expenses.
- (2) Unused funds in an account, up to 50% of the total funds deposited into the account for the current school year, shall remain in the account for the following school year.
- (3) The account shall be closed and the funds in the account shall be returned to the state general fund if a student is no longer eligible, if an account has been inactive for two consecutive years, or if a parent fails to comply with program requirements.
- (4) Account funds do not constitute taxable income and shall not be claimed as a credit, deduction, exemption, or rebate.

Eligibility; students

Proposed law provides that a student shall be initially eligible for an account if he is eligible to participate in dual enrollment and his parent submits a timely application and signs an agreement promising all to use account funds only for dual enrollment expenses of the participating student and to comply with all other program requirements.

Proposed law provides that a participating student is eligible to continue to participate in the program until he receives a high school diploma or its equivalent or his account is closed.

Reporting

Proposed law requires DOE, by April 30th annually, to submit a report to the House and Senate education committees and the Jt. Legislative Committee on the Budget regarding program implementation.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:2951 - 2955)