
DIGEST

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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)