
Education Committee

HB 2697

Brief Description: Concerning a weighted grade point average for purposes of the standardized high school transcript.

Sponsors: Representatives Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Lytton, Santos, Ryu, Roberts, Magendanz, Jinkins, Sells, Ormsby, Stanford, Springer, Takko, Fey, Bergquist, Freeman, Tarleton and Riccelli.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop a common method for assigning additional weight to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses on the standardized high school transcript.
- Requires school districts to use the common methodology beginning in 2014-15 for purposes of calculating a student's grade point average.

Hearing Date: 2/3/14

Staff: Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), in consultation with public colleges and universities and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, is charged with developing a standardized high school transcript for use in all public schools. The rules regarding the standardized transcript require a common method for calculating a student's grade point average (GPA) and for recording courses taken and credits earned.

Credits earned through the following courses are noted on the transcript with a designated letter:

- Running Start is noted "R."
- Advanced Placement is noted "A."
- International Baccalaureate is noted "I."
- College in the High School is noted "C."

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

- Tech Prep is noted "T."
- Honors is noted "H."

However, there is no modification in the calculation of the GPA for these courses.

Some states have adopted state-level uniform grading policies that include higher weighting in the GPA for certain advanced courses.

Summary of Bill:

The SPI, in consultation with the other education agencies that develop the standardized high school transcript, must develop a common method for assigning additional weight for Advanced Placement and higher-level International Baccalaureate courses for the purposes of calculating a student's GPA. Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, all school districts must use this methodology for the standardized transcript.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested January 28, 2014.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.