

## Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** SB425

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron** Wagner

**3. Committee** Education and Health

**4. Title** Diplomas; student-selected verified credits.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill directs the Board of Education to establish guidelines for local school boards to award diplomas for which 22 credits and satisfactory completion of coursework are required, but for which (i) any required verified units of credit may be selected by the student and (ii) certain industry certifications may be substituted for Standards of Learning assessments to earn verified units of credit. Such diploma requirements shall be designed to ensure that students have acquired the knowledge and skills required to enter a vocation upon graduation. School boards shall report annually to the Board of Education the number of such diplomas awarded. In no event shall the issuance of such diplomas be considered in determinations of school accreditation.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** See Item 8.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** The Department of Education would incur minimal costs related to guideline development. Current Board of Education regulations stipulate that a Standard Diploma requires 22 credits, six of which must be verified units of credit. For an Advanced Studies Diploma, 24 credits are required, nine of which must be verified units of credit. Requirements also exist for the awarding of a Modified Standard Diploma, Special Diploma, and Certificates of Program Completion.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department of Education, Board of Education, local school divisions

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 01/28/04 / acd

**Document:** H\ bos\k12 legislation\2004 session\SB425.doc.

cc: Secretary of Education