

## Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB 1534

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

**2. Patron:** Senator Sturtevant

**3. Committee:** Education

**4. Title:** Establish course credit policy for dual enrollment courses

**5. Summary:** This bill requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), in consultation with each public institution of higher education, to establish a policy for granting undergraduate general education course credit to any entering freshman student who has successfully completed a dual enrollment course. This bill also requires SCHEV and public institutions of higher education to make the policy available to the public on their websites. Finally, SCHEV will annually report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health on the implementation of the course credit policy by each of the public institutions of higher education.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Section 8)

**8. Fiscal Implications:** SCHEV implemented a similar policy granting undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students who took one or more placement examinations. It estimates that it would require one-time similar assistance equaling 0.3 FTE at approximately \$20,000 (\$30 per hour) to carry out the duties mandated by this bill. However, SCHEV believes that it could absorb the resulting costs.

The public institutions of higher education should be able to absorb any cost resulting from this proposed legislation, given that transfer credits and other types of credit are usually evaluated during the application review and students are notified of credit acceptance. The initial cost of implementing this legislation at the institutional level includes staff time to code the electronic academic records to reflect the new credit standards. Once the policy and standards have been established, ongoing implementation should not be much different from an institution's current practices. The data systems and staff that currently assign course credits would be the same ones to assign the dual enrollment course credits. Finally, while there may be some loss of tuition revenues for public institutions of higher education, due to students needing fewer credits to graduate, efficiencies could result from additional slots in basic undergraduate courses opening up.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and Virginia's public institutions of higher education

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is identical to HB 1662.

**Date:** 02/07/17

c: Secretary of Education