

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2015 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB1336ER

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Landes

**3. Committee:** Passed both Houses

**4. Title:** Policy on course credit at higher educational institutions.

**5. Summary:** Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), in consultation with the governing board of each public institution of higher education, to establish a uniform policy for granting undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students who have taken one or more Advanced Placement, Cambridge Advanced (A/AS), College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), or International Baccalaureate examinations and repeals the current law under which such governing boards individually implement such policies. The bill requires SCHEV and each public institution of higher education to make the policy available to the public on its website. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2016.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final, see item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the cost of this legislation would be staff time and travel to develop and implement this policy for SCHEV and each public college or university. It is likely that that the colleges and universities could absorb this cost, as transfer credits and other type of credit(s) are usually evaluated during the application review and students are notified of the credit acceptance.

The initial cost of developing and implementing this legislation includes staff time to decide on the new uniform standards, and thus coding systems in the electronic academic records system to the new standards. Additionally, the evaluation of transfer credits will likely be a function of the faculty advisor and the time to evaluate each requested transfer course, which may affect the colleges' and universities' ability to provide academic counseling. This could affect some schools more than others.

Once the policy and uniform standards have been developed, ongoing implementation will likely not be marginally different from current practices. The systems and staff that assign credit for the referenced prior learning assessments will be used to assign the new credit equivalencies.

Additionally, there could be a loss of tuition revenues for colleges and universities due to students needing fewer credits, but there could also be efficiencies as additional slots in basic

courses could open up allowing more student access. There could also be a cost savings to students should more courses be accepted towards degrees.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, all public colleges and universities.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.