

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1502

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

2. Patron: Miyares

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Testing Grant Fund and Program; establishment.

5. Summary: Establishes the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Testing Grant Fund and Program, to be administered by the Department of Education, for the purpose of awarding grants to local school boards to be used to cover half of the fee required to participate in any Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test for any high school student in the local school division who receives free or reduced price lunch. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish guidelines and procedures for application for and disbursement of such grants. The bill requires local school boards to use such grant funds to supplement, not supplant, any other federal, state, local, or private funds made available to cover such testing fees for high school students who receive free or reduced price lunch.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 128 and Item 135.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The additional state cost for the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Testing Grant Program cannot be determined, as any cost is dependent on the number of students eligible for this program and the amount of funding appropriated by the General Assembly.

To estimate a cost for this program using data collected by the Department of Education (DOE), DOE would have to make assumptions about the number of students taking AP and IB exams who are eligible for free lunch and the number of exams those students take. DOE previously administered the federal Advanced Placement Test Fee Program, which awarded grants to eligible state educational agencies to enable such agencies to pay all or a portion of AP and IB test fees on behalf of eligible low-income students. Under this program, DOE distributed federal funds to localities of approximately \$420,000 in FY 2016 and \$355,000 in FY 2017. The actual cost to support a similar state-funded program is dependent on actual student participation in the program and future test fees, which historically increase annually.

DOE would use existing staff to establish guidelines and procedures for application for and disbursement of grants. If the program is funded, DOE will require a full-time-equivalent program manager position to properly administer this program. DOE estimates an annual cost of \$127,200 for salary, benefits, and other expenses to support this position.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Education, local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: This bill defines an eligible student as any high school student in the local school division who receives free or reduced price lunch. In schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision, every student receives free lunch. Consequently, in such schools, every student taking an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test could be eligible for this program. It may be more appropriate to define an eligible student as any high school student in the local school division who qualifies for free or reduced price lunch.

11. Other Comments: None