



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Carrie Burggraf

S.B. 220

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Gardner

BILL SUMMARY

- Removes a provision prohibiting a public school from charging a student any additional fee or tuition for participation in a dual enrollment program.
- Removes a provision stipulating that rules regarding alternative funding agreements for the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO) must prohibit the charging of students participating in PSEO any tuition or fees through such agreements.
- Requires the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, by December 31, 2013, to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding student fees for the College Credit Plus Program.
- Declares an emergency.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Dual enrollment program fees

The bill removes a provision of current law, which was enacted by Am. Sub. H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly (the budget act for the 2014-2015 fiscal biennium), that prohibits a school district, community school, or STEM school from charging a student any additional fee or tuition for participation in a dual enrollment program offered by that district or school. The bill also removes a related provision that explicitly permits the charging of students for costs associated with taking an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) examination.¹

¹ R.C. 3313.6013(D).

Background on dual enrollment

A "dual enrollment program" is a program in which a high school student may choose to participate to earn credit toward a college degree while also completing the high school curriculum requirements. Several programs or options currently qualify as dual enrollment, including the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (see "**Background on PSEO**" below), Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Early College High Schools, and any program that is similar to PSEO and AP and is agreed upon by both the high school and the institution of higher education.² The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is often classified as one of these options. All public high schools in the state, as well as chartered nonpublic high schools, are required to offer at least one dual enrollment program.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program fees

Under current law, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents may adopt rules regarding alternative funding agreements for the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO). Current law, enacted in H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly, stipulates that these rules must prohibit charging a student participating in PSEO any tuition or fees through such agreements. The bill removes this stipulation.³

Background on PSEO

PSEO allows high school students to enroll in nonsectarian college courses on a full- or part-time basis and to receive high school and college credit. Students in public high schools (school districts, community schools, and STEM schools) and nonpublic high schools (both chartered and nonchartered), as well as homeschooled students, are eligible to participate in the program. College courses under the program may be taken at any participating state institution of higher education, private nonprofit college or university, or private for-profit educational institution.

PSEO consists of two "options," which the student elects at the time of enrolling in the college course. Under Option A, the student is responsible for payment of all tuition and other costs charged by the higher education institution. Under this option, the student may further elect to receive only college credit for a completed course or to receive both college and high school credit. Under Option B, the student receives both college credit and high school credit for successfully completing a college course, and the state makes a payment to the institution of higher education on the student's behalf.

² R.C. 3313.6013(A)(1) to (4).

³ R.C. 3365.12.



Funding for PSEO

The state payment to an institution of higher education on behalf of a student under PSEO is made in the fiscal year after the student completes the college course. State payments for students enrolled in public high schools are deducted from the state aid accounts of the students' school districts, community schools, or STEM schools. State payments for students enrolled in nonpublic high schools and for homeschooled students are paid out of a separate state amount set aside for that purpose. The amount of the payment for a student is the lesser of the actual cost of tuition, textbooks, materials, and fees associated with the college course or the full-time equivalent percentage of time the student attends the course multiplied by the "tuition base," which is defined as the "formula amount" under the school funding formula. That amount is \$5,745, for fiscal year 2014, and \$5,800, for fiscal year 2015.

Also, a participating college may choose to receive reimbursement for PSEO through an alternative funding agreement with a high school, so long as (1) both the high school and the institution mutually agree on the alternative formula and (2) the alternative formula meets the rules adopted by the state Superintendent and the Chancellor. Currently, the rules regarding these agreements must prohibit charging a student participating in PSEO any tuition or fees through alternative funding agreements.

Additionally, current law, which is unaffected by the bill, prohibits a college from charging participating students for tuition, textbooks, materials, or other fees directly related to any course taken under the PSEO program, if that college expects to receive or receives reimbursement under "Option B" of PSEO or through alternative funding agreements. Furthermore, that provision also requires colleges to furnish to a participant all textbooks and materials directly related to a course taken under PSEO.⁴

Therefore, under current law and under the bill, it appears that if a college expects to receive or receives reimbursement via a state payment or an alternative funding agreement, that college is prohibited from charging students for costs related to a PSEO course.

College Credit Plus Program recommendations

The bill requires the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, not later than December 31, 2013, to make recommendations to the General Assembly on whether to permit institutions of higher education, school districts, and schools to charge students for costs associated with the College Credit Plus Program. In developing the

⁴ R.C. 3365.08(A), not in the bill.



recommendations, the Chancellor must consult with the Inter-University Council of Ohio, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Ohio School Boards Association.⁵

Current law, enacted in H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly, requires the Chancellor, by December 31, 2013, to make recommendations to establish the College Credit Plus Program to allow high school students to earn credits through institutions of higher education in the state.⁶ Presumably, this program would replace PSEO.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-29-13

S0220-I-130.docx/ks

⁵ Section 3.

⁶ Section 363.590 of H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly.

