

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 8 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Lim, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
Nays: 0
Exc.: Krummel
Prepared By: Derrick Olsen, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/3 (Subcommittee on Education Innovation), 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands definition of eligible students for participation in Expanded Options Program. Changes program notification requirements. Provides process for determining duplicate courses and appealing those determinations. Directs school district and eligible post-secondary institution to negotiate in good faith financial agreement for payment of instructional costs. Provides process for parties to appeal to Department of Education to determine whether negotiations were conducted in good faith. Allows a waiver for districts who negotiate in good faith but do not reach an agreement. Allows public charter schools to participate in Expanded Options Program. Allows school district to request waiver of requirements of participation in program. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to assist at-risk students and remove any barriers for their achievement
- Number of high school students registered for classes at community colleges/universities under program
- Variance by school district in marketing of program to students/parents and level of interest by students/parents
- Eligibility requirements
- Opt-out waiver for school districts
- School district financial agreements with community colleges vs. universities and cost difference
- Importance of rules governing financial opt-out provision; beginning fund balance of schools as reference point

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Expanded Options Program was adopted by the 2005 Legislature in Senate Bill 300. The intent of SB 300 was to increase high school and college completion rates by creating alternatives for high school students who need advanced or technical course work that is not offered by their high schools. The program offers students the chance to pursue dual high school and college credits at no additional cost to the student's family and is targeted to at-risk students. The program provides a consistent funding mechanism that limits the effect on any one school's budget and that involves the school and family through the individual learning plan that each participating student must complete.

The Senate Education and General Government Committee gave SB 23-A a Do Pass as Amended recommendation with a 4-0-1 vote, and it passed the Senate 29-1-0.

5/17/2007 3:29:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.