

LFC Requester:	Travis Dulany
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2017 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply: Date 2/11/17
Original **Amendment** _____ **Bill No:** SB208
Correction **Substitute** _____

Sponsor: Senator John M. Sapien **Agency Code:** 924
Short Title: SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT POLICY **Person Writing:** Christopher Ruskowski
Title: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18	FY19		
NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: SB208 requires public post-secondary institutions to grant credit for passing scores (of three or higher) on the College Board’s Advanced Placement Examinations. It also requires the Higher Education Department to report institutional Advanced Placement policies to the Legislature and the Governor.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Granting Advanced Placement (AP) credit to students might impact the revenue of public post-secondary institutions insofar as students might require fewer credit hours to obtain a degree.

SB208 has no direct fiscal impact on the Public Education Department (PED).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

By taking an AP course and scoring successfully on the related AP exam, students and their families can save on college expenses: most colleges and universities nationwide offer college credit, accelerated placement, or both, for qualifying AP exam scores. These credits can allow families to save college tuition or secure a second major.

While College Board, a membership association of over 6,000 of the world’s leading education institutions, recommends that students received three credit hours for a score of three or higher, current policy is inconsistent across New Mexico public post-secondary institutions.

When a student does not receive credit for a score of three or four on an AP exam, it has a direct economic impact on the student and the family. While the exact economic impact of the current policies is hard to quantify at the state level, the individual impact for students and families is clear. The impact may also disproportionately impact low-income and first generation families.

SB208 establishes a consistent policy for all public New Mexico post-secondary institutions and requires institutions to be aligned with College Board recommendations. Many other states, including Texas, have similar policies. For some students, especially those who take many AP exams, the decision to stay in New Mexico, or to enroll out-of-state, may hinge on the credits that are awarded.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED has invested significantly in its AP programs via below-the-line targeted investments, with a clear return-on-investment for taxpayers.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB208 requires the Higher Education Department (HED) to report institutional AP policies to the Legislature and the Governor, but does not specify the mechanisms, timelines, or frequency for this reporting requirement. HED should be consulted as to the impact of this policy, and any administrative burden should be taken into account as it pertains to the timeline of implementation.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None noted.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Section 1.B. is somewhat unclear, as it can be read as a conflict with Section 1.A. It might be clearer if Section B clarified that the number of credit hours or the specific course that students received credit for can vary from one institution to another, since Section A specifies that course credit will be awarded.

ALTERNATIVES

None noted.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Students will continue to confront an inconsistent array of policies for how their AP exam scores are interpreted.

AMENDMENTS

None as of January 30, 2017