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Fiscal Note

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| Drafting Number: | LLS 24-0417 | Date: | March 1, 2024 |
| Prime Sponsors: | Rep. Lindstedt; Lukens Sen. Baisley | Bill Status: | House Education |
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Bill Topic: **CHANGES FOR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT STUDENTS**

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| Summary of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| Fiscal Impact: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund | <input type="checkbox"/> School District |

The bill modifies guidelines for the Pathway in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Program. The bill will increase workload to higher education students and the Department of Higher Education beginning in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

The Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Program allows students in [approved programs](#) to graduate from high school with an associate's degree or certificate in certain disciplines. The bill expands the allowable disciplines to include industries beyond the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

Under current law, credits earned through a P-TECH program, concurrent enrollment courses, developmental education courses, the Accelerating Students in Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) program, and the Teacher Recruitment and Education Program (TREP) program count against a student's allowable College Opportunity Fund (COF) limit. The bill changes this law so that P-TECH, concurrent enrollment, development ASCENT, and TREP credits do not count against this credit limit.

Background

The COF program provides tuition assistance to eligible resident, undergraduate students. It provides assistance for up to 145 credit hours over their lifetime. TREP, ASCENT, and P-TECH programs provide college credit for students who stay in enrolled for a fifth or sixth year in high school while taking postsecondary courses

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures and workload, as discussed below.

Department of Higher Education. The Department of Higher Education currently administers COF applications, including determining if students are eligible based on the amount of credits they have earned. The bill will minimally increase the review time these staff spend on determining eligibility; no change in appropriations is required.

Institutions of higher education. Institutions of higher education will update their rules and publications to reflect the changes in the bill. This change in workload is assumed to be minimal.

School finance. Students enrolled in P-TECH programs are counted as extended high school students and are funded at a flat rate through the school finance formula, estimated to be \$10,244 in FY 2024-25. To the extent that the bill increases enrollment in P-TECH programs, the state share of school finance will increase. No change in appropriations is required. Any changes in the state share will be handled through annual school finance budget process. The state share is paid from the General Fund, State Education Fund, and State Public School Fund.

School District

School districts that participate in the P-TECH program will update information regarding cap limits. This additional workload is assumed to be minimal.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Higher Education

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).