



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1434

PRINTER'S NO. 1613

PRIME SPONSOR: Isaacson

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1434 amends the Public School Code of 1949 to establish the Dual Credit Innovation and Equity Grant Program.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1434 adds a new article to the Public School Code of 1949 – Article XV-N – Dual Credit Innovation and Equity Grant Program. Dual credit means a student earns both high school and postsecondary credit by taking a single postsecondary course.

Under the grant program, the Department of Education (PDE) would award grants to public institutions of higher education that offer dual credit opportunities to high school students enrolled in a school entity, which includes school districts, area career and technical schools, and charter schools. The legislation defines a “public institution of higher education” to include institutions of the State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), community colleges, the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, and the rural regional college.

The grants shall be used to increase the capacity for public institutions of higher education to provide dual credit courses, including:

- To operate dual credit courses that are tuition free to high school students;
- To seek external accreditation for dual credit courses;
- To provide a system of wraparound student supports;
- To increase the use of no-cost or low-cost textbooks or course materials used in dual credit courses; or
- To provide professional development activities for high school teachers to enable them to teach dual credit courses.

PDE must give priority in grant funding to applicants proposing to expand current offerings with an emphasis on providing courses aligned with high priority career paths and serving students that are experiencing education instability, enrolled in career and technical programs, low-income, historically underserved, or living in rural areas.

PDE is required to issue an annual report of aggregated student-level data from the dual credit grant program, including demographics, high school graduation rates, economically disadvantaged proportions, postsecondary matriculation (including whether it's a Pennsylvania location), college credits earned, estimated college savings, and college graduation rates by type of institution.

House Bill 1434 would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 1434 provides the framework for a new Dual Credit Innovation and Equity Grant Program, but it does not include an appropriation for program grants. Therefore, there is no program cost, and PDE staff indicated the program can be administered using existing resources.

For eligible public institutions of higher education, grant funding under House Bill 1434 would represent a new potential revenue source.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: March 25, 2024

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.