

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 1061 Funds for the Operation Of Schools
SPONSOR(S): PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, Overdorf, Plasencia and others
TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1132

| REFERENCE | ACTION | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF |
|--|---------------------|---------|--|
| 1) PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee | 11 Y, 0 N, As CS | Seifert | Potvin |
| 2) Education Committee | 17 Y, 0 N | Sleap | Hassell |

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The AP Capstone Diploma is a program offered by the College Board and is based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses are designed to develop a student's skills in critical thinking, independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication. The courses complement other AP courses the student may take. Students who earn a score of 3 or higher on the exams for the AP Seminar course and the AP Research course, plus earn a score of 3 or higher on four additional AP exams of their choosing, receive the AP Capstone Diploma. The AP Capstone Diploma program signifies that a student has completed a certain set of requirements in high school to earn an advanced diploma in addition to the standard high school diploma.

The bill provides for school districts to receive additional funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for each student who receives an Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma in addition to a standard high school diploma.

The bill would have a fiscal impact based on the number of AP Capstone diplomas awarded. This impact will be incorporated into the overall FEFP. See Fiscal Comments.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2019.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Advanced Placement Program

Present Situation

Since 1955, the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) program has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement credit, or both while still in high school.¹ The AP program allows academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies through 38 AP courses, modeled on comparable introductory college courses, in seven subject areas.² Each AP course culminates in a standardized college-level assessment, or AP exam.³ The exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5,⁴ with college credit awarded for AP exam scores of 3 or higher.⁵

Currently, AP students who score a 3 or higher on the AP exam in the prior year generate a value of 0.16 full-time equivalent (FTE) bonus amount in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) calculation for the subsequent fiscal year.⁶ Each school district must allocate at least 80% of the funds to the high school that generates the funds.⁷ The school district must distribute to each classroom teacher who provided the AP instruction as follows:

- A \$50 bonus for each student taught by the AP teacher in each AP course who receives a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam.
- An additional \$500 to each AP teacher in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F" who has at least one student scoring 3 or higher on the AP exam, regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of students scoring a 3 or higher on the AP exam.⁸

Bonuses awarded to an AP teacher are in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the classroom teacher received or is scheduled to receive.⁹ The Fiscal Year 2018-2019 third calculation of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) includes over 29,000 add-on weighted FTE for the AP program.¹⁰

Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma

In 2014, the College Board established the AP Capstone Diploma program to provide students opportunities to develop skills in critical thinking, independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills.¹¹ The AP Capstone diploma program is based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research.¹² These courses are designed to complement the other AP courses taken by an AP Capstone student. Students typically take the AP Seminar course in grades 10 or 11,

¹ College Board, *About AP*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap> (last visited April 12, 2019).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Section 1007.27(5), F.S.

⁶ Section 1011.62(1)(n), F.S.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, *FEFP 2018-19 Third Calculation* (Jan. 11, 2019), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7507/urlt/18193rdCalc.pdf>.

¹¹ College Board, *AP Capstone Diploma Program How it Works*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone/how-ap-capstone-works> (last visited April 12, 2019).

¹² *Id.*

followed by the AP Research course.¹³ The AP Seminar course is a prerequisite for the AP Research course.¹⁴

The AP Seminar course allows students to investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives. Students learn to incorporate information from different sources, develop their own views in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team.¹⁵ The AP Research course allows students to explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of interest to them. Students design, plan, and conduct a year-long research-based investigation to address a research question, documenting their process with a portfolio, and develop an academic paper and presentation.¹⁶

Students who earn a score of 3 or higher on the exams for the AP Seminar course and the AP Research course, plus earn a score of 3 or higher on four additional AP exams of their choosing, receive the AP Capstone Diploma.¹⁷ The AP Capstone Diploma program signifies that the student has completed a certain set of requirements in high school to earn an advanced diploma in addition to the standard high school diploma.

The Florida Department of Education provided the following number of Capstone Diplomas awarded to students, as reported by the College Board:

- 2018 Graduates: 871 AP Capstone Diplomas
- 2017 Graduates: 559 AP Capstone Diplomas
- 2016 Graduates: 201 AP Capstone Diplomas¹⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill provides a 0.30 FTE add-on bonus amount to be generated by students that graduate with the AP Capstone Diploma. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, students that graduate with the AP Capstone Diploma are eligible for the add-on bonus funding in the subsequent year.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 1011.62, F.S., revising the annual allocation to school districts to include an additional calculation of full-time equivalent membership for students who earn a College Board Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma beginning in a specified fiscal year.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2019.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ College Board, *AP Capstone Program FAQ, at a Glance*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone/frequently-asked-questions?course=ap-capstone-diploma-program> (last visited April 12, 2019).

¹⁵ College Board, *AP Seminar Course*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-seminar/course?course=ap-seminar> (last visited April 12, 2019).

¹⁶ College Board, *AP Research Course*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-research/course?course=ap-research> (last visited April 12, 2019).

¹⁷ College Board, *AP Capstone Diploma Program How it Works*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone/how-ap-capstone-works> (last visited April 12, 2019).

¹⁸ Email from Bethany Swanson, Legislative Affairs, Florida Department of Education, RE: For 1061/1132 Bill Analysis - PERA 3055o (March 28, 2019).

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

There were 871 AP Capstone diplomas awarded to Florida AP students in Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Based on this data, and applying the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 base student allocation of \$4,203.95 multiplied by 0.30 FTE and then multiplied by the 871 students equals \$1,098,492. Based on the number of AP Capstone diplomas awarded in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the FEFP would be redistributed to accommodate these students.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

School districts that offer the Capstone Diploma program may receive additional funding through the FEFP.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On April 1, 2019, the PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment provides that students graduating in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 with an AP Capstone Diploma are eligible for the add-on bonus funding in the subsequent year.

The staff analysis is updated to reflect the committee substitute as reported favorably by the PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.