

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24108C1

The proposed new section would consolidate and streamline sections of code pertaining to Advanced Opportunities for secondary students into a contiguous program, rather than separate, isolated programs. Rather than limit student access to state aid based on student grade level, the proposed changes would allow students to access state support for overload courses, dual credit courses and college credit-bearing or professional-technical examinations at any point in grades 7 through 12. Additionally, students who graduate early can still receive a scholarship to attend an Idaho public postsecondary institution, as is the current practice. Changes include:

- Clarifying eligible overload credits as high school credits only.
- Extending the definition of "Full Course Load" to include the maximum number of credits offered during the regular school day.
- Clarifying the definition of "School Year" as beginning upon the conclusion of the spring semester.
- Section 33-4602 is replaced with a new section which describes the consolidation of programs.
- Sections 33-4603, 33-4604, and 33-4605 are repealed.

FISCAL NOTE

The FY16 appropriation for Advanced Opportunities Programs is \$6 million. In FY15, a total of \$3.5 million was expended on these programs. Based on the participation rate in FY15, it is expected that 29% of the students eligible for the programs will utilize them. When multiplied by the proposed allocation of \$4, 125 per pupil, it is expected that these programs will cost \$4.4 million, assuming the participation rate remains the same. It is possible that this reform will lead to the expansion of these programs. In consideration of such growth, a 30% participation increase will result in a fiscal impact of \$5.7 million, which is below the current allocation of \$6 million for Advanced Opportunities.

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