

Hall of the House of Representatives
86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2712

"TO REQUIRE INSTRUCTORS OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES TO MEET THE
REQUIREMENTS OF A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTOR FOR THE COURSE."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2712.

Amend House Bill No. 2712 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete lines 9 through 14 and substitute the following:

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND
OTHER COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Page 1, delete the subtitle in its entirety and substitute the following:

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND
OTHER COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS."

AND

Delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-902 is amended to read as follows:
6-15-902. Grading scale - Exemptions - Special education classes.

(a) The following grading scale shall be used by all public secondary
schools in the state for all courses, except advanced placement courses,
concurrent enrollment courses, and courses offered under the International
Baccalaureate Diploma Program:

- (1) A = 90-100;
- (2) B = 80-89;
- (3) C = 70-79;
- (4) D = 60-69; and
- (5) F = 59 and below.

(b) Each letter grade shall be given a numeric value for the purpose
of determining grade average. Except for advanced placement courses, courses
offered under the program, and honors courses, the numeric value for each
letter grade shall be:

- (1) A = 4 points;
- (2) B = 3 points;
- (3) C = 2 points;
- (4) D = 1 point; and



(5) F = 0 points.

(c)(1) The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate equivalents for advanced placement and college courses and shall recommend a uniform grading structure for honors courses.

(2) Weighted credit shall be allowed for advanced placement courses and courses offered under the program if:

(A) The student takes the entire advanced placement course or the entire course offered in the program in a particular subject;

(B) The student completes the applicable test offered by the College Board for advanced placement courses at the end of the advanced placement course, or the applicable test offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization at the time prescribed by the organization; and

(C)(i) The teacher of the advanced placement course meets Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and:

(a) Attends a College Board Advanced Placement Summer Institute no less than one (1) time every five (5) years; or

(b) Completes an additional training plan for advanced placement within three (3) years of commencing the additional training plan; or

(ii) The teacher of the course offered under the program meets Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and attends the training required by the organization.

(3)(A) The local school board may decide whether to adopt a policy to allow high school students in the district to take college courses for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in advanced placement courses, courses offered under the program, and honors classes.

(B) If a local school board adopts a policy as set forth in subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this section, the district must apply to the Department of Education through the Assistant Director for Accountability for approval of courses to be designated "concurrent enrollment college courses". The application shall be reviewed for approval to assign a numeric grade value, which may include weighted credit, based on the following:

(i) A letter from the superintendent of the district or principal of the school describing how the course exceeds expectations for coursework required under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools; and

(ii) The grade level or levels of students who will be enrolled in the course.

(4) A local school board and the Department of Education shall allow weighted credit for the following courses if the student takes the entire course and completes the applicable test for the course:

(A) An endorsed concurrent enrollment course; and

(B) Certain advanced mathematics and science courses that are determined by the Department of Higher Education to be eligible for weighted credit pursuant to rules established by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

~~(d) [Repealed.]~~

~~(e)~~(d) A school district shall have the option of using the grading scale in this section in the district's elementary schools.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 8 is amended

to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER 8 -- ARKANSAS ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

6-16-801. Title.

This subchapter shall be known as and may be cited as the "Arkansas Advanced Placement ~~and International Baccalaureate Diploma~~ Incentive Program Act of 1995".

6-16-802. Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to serve as a legislative charter for the establishment, organization, and administration of a program designed to improve the course offerings available to middle school, junior high school, and high school students throughout the state.

(b) The program established under this subchapter will provide advanced educational courses that are easily accessible and that will prepare students for admission to and success in a postsecondary educational environment.

(c) A key component in the program is adequately preparing teachers and schools in providing advanced placement courses ~~or courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program~~ to their students.

6-16-803. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(A) "Advanced placement course" means a high school level preparatory course for a college advanced placement test that incorporates all topics specified by the College Board and Educational Testing Service on its standard syllabus for a given subject area and is approved by the College Board and Educational Testing Service.

(B) "Preadvanced placement course" means a middle school, junior high school, or high school level course that specifically prepares students to enroll and participate in an advanced placement course;

(2) "Board" means the State Board of Education;

(3) "College advanced placement test" means the advanced placement test administered by the College Board and Educational Testing Service;

(4) "College Board" means the College Board and Educational Testing Service;

(5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education;

(6) "Department" means the Department of Education; and

~~(7) "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program" means an international education program offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization; and~~

~~(8)-(7)~~ "Program" means the Arkansas Advanced Placement ~~and International Baccalaureate Diploma~~ Incentive Program.

6-16-804. Established - Subsidies - Rules and regulations.

(a) The Arkansas Advanced Placement ~~and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program~~ is hereby established, to be administered by the Commissioner of Education.

(b) Contingent upon legislative appropriations and based on criteria established by the Department of Education, schools participating in the program may be awarded a one-time equipment and instructional materials grant

for providing an advanced placement course ~~or a course offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.~~

(c) Subject to legislative appropriations, a teacher participating in the advanced placement program, ~~in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program,~~ or in the preadvanced placement program may be awarded subsidized teacher training for advanced placement courses at a cost not to exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher.

(d)(1) Contingent upon legislative appropriation and the availability of funding, the state may pay in full, or on a pro rata basis as determined under subdivision (d)(2) of this section, the cost of the advanced placement test fee ~~or the equivalent test fee under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, or both.~~

(2) The State Board of Education may create a sliding scale based on family income.

(e) The board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this subchapter.

6-16-805. Funding.

(a) The awards granted under the provisions of this subchapter for both advanced placement ~~and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program~~ may be funded by donations, grants, or legislative appropriation.

(b) All donations, grants, and appropriations received shall be accounted for by the Department of Education.

(c) The Commissioner of Education may solicit and receive donations and grants for the purpose of making awards.

~~6-16-806. Treatment as advanced placement course.~~

~~Any high school course offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be treated the same as an advanced placement course, including for the following purposes:~~

- ~~(1) Weighted credit;~~
- ~~(2) The Arkansas Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program Act of 1995; and~~
- ~~(3) Reporting requirements."~~

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative M. Martin
CLR/CLR - 03-23-2007 16:04
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Chief Clerk