

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 518

By Senator Rucker

[Introduced January 30, 2023; referred
to the Committee on the Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §18B-14-4, relating to establishing the dual enrollment pilot program to be
 3 administered by the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Council for Community
 4 and Technical College Education in conjunction with the State Board of Education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 14. MISCELLANEOUS.

§18B-14-4. Dual enrollment pilot program established; definitions; funding; annual reporting.

1 (a) Definitions. – As used in this section, unless used in a context that clearly requires a
 2 different meaning, the term:

3 "Dual credit course" means a credit-bearing college-level course offered by an eligible
 4 institution to secondary school students in which the students receive credit at both the secondary
 5 and post-secondary levels.

6 "Dual enrollment" means the registration of an eligible secondary student in a post-
 7 secondary course creditable toward high school completion and a career technical certificate,
 8 associate degree, or baccalaureate degree. A student who is enrolled in post-secondary
 9 instruction that is not creditable toward a high school diploma may not be classified as a dual
 10 enrollment student.

11 "Eligible course" means any class or program of instruction offered at an eligible institution
 12 for which the student receives credit toward both high school completion and a post-secondary
 13 certificate or degree. Applied academics for adult education instruction, developmental education,
 14 physical education courses, and recreation and leisure studies courses are not eligible courses for
 15 dual enrollment purposes.

16 "Eligible institution" means a state institution of higher education as that term is defined in
 17 §18B-1-2 of this code.

18 "Eligible student" means any secondary school student who meets minimum criteria

19 established by the state school board and the commission or council, as appropriate, for the
20 purpose of enrolling in a dual credit course.

21 (b) *Dual enrollment pilot program established.* – In conjunction with the state board and
22 under the supervision of the commission and the council, the chancellor and the state
23 superintendent shall establish a four-year pilot program whereby eligible institutions shall offer
24 dual enrollment courses that will comprise individualized pathways for career and post-secondary
25 educational opportunities for the state's secondary school students. These students shall be
26 enrolled in eligible courses leading to careers in certain designated career pathways, namely
27 direct care health professions; information technology; science, technology, engineering, and
28 math (STEM) fields; education; advanced manufacturing; welding and fabrication; and any other
29 program that meets a workforce need in the state as determined by the Department of Commerce.

30 (c) *Funding.* – From appropriations to the commission and the council for the purposes of
31 implementing and administering the dual enrollment pilot program established in this section, the
32 commission or the council, as appropriate, shall pay directly to the eligible institutions from such
33 appropriations the cost of the tuition and academic fees incurred by eligible students taking dual
34 credit courses in accordance with the dual enrollment pilot program established in this section.

35 (d) *Rulemaking.* – The commission and council may propose legislative and emergency
36 rules pursuant to §29A-3A-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement the provisions of this section.

37 (e) *Annual reports.* – By December 1, 2023, and annually thereafter for the duration of the
38 pilot program, the chancellor shall report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education
39 Accountability on: The number of students participating in the program; the number and type of
40 credits and certifications or credentials earned by students who have participated in the program;
41 projected growth in the program and funding needs for the next year; any issues with the program
42 reported by students, parents, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education, how these
43 issues are being addressed, and whether the issues require legislative action; and a
44 recommendation from the chancellor and the state superintendent on whether the program should

45 continue beyond its four-year pilot period.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish the dual enrollment pilot program to be administered by the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Council for Community and Technical College Education in conjunction with the State Department of Education.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.