

Date of Hearing: January 23, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 150 (Cooper) – As Amended January 15, 2020

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 6 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill clarifies that a public school must issue course credit to a highly mobile student for coursework satisfactorily completed there, even if the student did not complete the entire course. In addition, the bill requires the public school to which the highly mobile student transfers to contact the student's prior school within two days of the student's enrollment to request the student's transcript showing full or partial credit completion. The bill also requires the student's prior school deliver the transcript to the new school within two days. Once the new school receives the transcript, the bill requires the school to accept the partial or full credits issued by the prior school and count the credits toward the subject in which the course was taken.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Unknown Proposition 98 General Fund costs for school personnel to potentially adjust their administrative practices with regard to highly mobile students. Specifically, for (a) a school to contact a highly mobile student's prior school within two days of the student's enrollment to request the student's transcript and (b) the prior school to deliver the transcript within two days. The state likely has at least 150,000 highly mobile high school students. Assuming 50% of these students transfer to a new school annually, and that the newly efficient transfer takes an additional one hour of an administrative assistant making minimum wage's time, costs would be about \$1.1 million annually.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Assembly Bill 150 will remove barriers for foster youth and other highly mobile youth in graduating from high school and achieving educational success. This bill clarifies that all credits earned in a given subject area, including partial credits, must be combined to establish a 'one year course' to meet state minimum graduation requirements. Not combining partial credits for foster youth who transfer schools forces them to repeat coursework, delaying their ability to graduate and increasing their potential to dropout.

2) **Background.** Current law requires public schools to accept credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed in another school by a highly mobile student. Current law also requires, when partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the highly mobile

student be enrolled in the same or equivalent course. This law is most consequential for high school students, who need to earn credits to receive their high school diploma.

A highly mobile student is either a student in foster care; a former juvenile court school student; a homeless student; a student who is a child of a military family; a student who is the child of a migrant worker; or a student participating in a newcomer program. About 17,000 foster youth are enrolled in California high schools. Assuming equal distribution among grade levels based on aggregate data, high schools serve about 92,000 homeless students, 30,000 children of migrant workers and about 19,000 children of military families. Not including newcomer students or students formerly incarcerated for which data is not readily available, and assuming no duplication of students in different highly mobile groups, the state's high schools serve about 164,000 highly mobile students.

Current law governing credit acceptance for highly mobile students, however, is sometimes rendered ineffective because the school a highly mobile student might attend may not issue partial credit when students leave. As a result, there is no partial credit for the receiving school to accept. Moreover, inconsistency in course titles results in some schools recording the credit a student earned in a core academic subject at a prior school as elective credit. This can lead to students accruing elective credit instead of the academic credit they need to earn a high school diploma.

Analysis Prepared by: Natasha Collins / APPR. / (916) 319-2081