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## **S.257 Section 4 – Change to 16 V.S.A. § 944 Dual Enrollment Program**

Testimony to House Education, 4/4/2018

Agency of Education; Emily Byrne and Jess DeCarolis

**Summary:** Section 4 of S.257 as passed by the Senate includes a change to the Dual Enrollment program. This section amends the current law and strikes language that limits the dual enrollment program to publicly-funded students. In effect, this language expands dual enrollment to all students, not just those that are publicly funded.

**Current program:** The program currently allows eligible Vermont residents who are publicly-funded juniors and seniors to take up to two college courses if approved by their principal or school designee. This program is part of the Flexible Pathways Initiative whose purpose was to “identify and support secondary students who require additional assistance to succeed in school [...]”.

1. The per-credit cost of dual enrollment courses varies depending on where the students receive instruction and by whom. AOE estimates that each class costs on average \$700.
2. Any student who meets the criteria outlined in the statute and policy manual is entitled to a maximum of two courses.
3. The AOE is obligated to reimburse the higher education institutions the credit hour rate.

**Financing Dual Enrollment:** The Dual Enrollment obligation is an entitlement. If a student meets the eligibility criteria, they are entitled to up to two courses which they request and are approved for through an online platform. These transactions are tracked through vouchers.

1. The appropriation for this program is funded with 50% Education Fund Dollars and 50% Next Generation Funds (General Funds).
2. When the program started in 2015, there was no data on projected use of the program, the \$1.2M appropriation was sufficient and was not changed in FY 2016, FY 2017 or FY 2018.
3. In FY 2016 and FY 2017 the AOE saw a significant increase in the use of vouchers, and the appropriation was not sufficient to cover the program costs.
4. AOE used carryforward, brought about by underspending in other Education Fund appropriations, to cover the increased costs of the program.
5. In FY 2019 the Agency requested an increase in the appropriation by \$160K to bring total funding to \$1.36M.

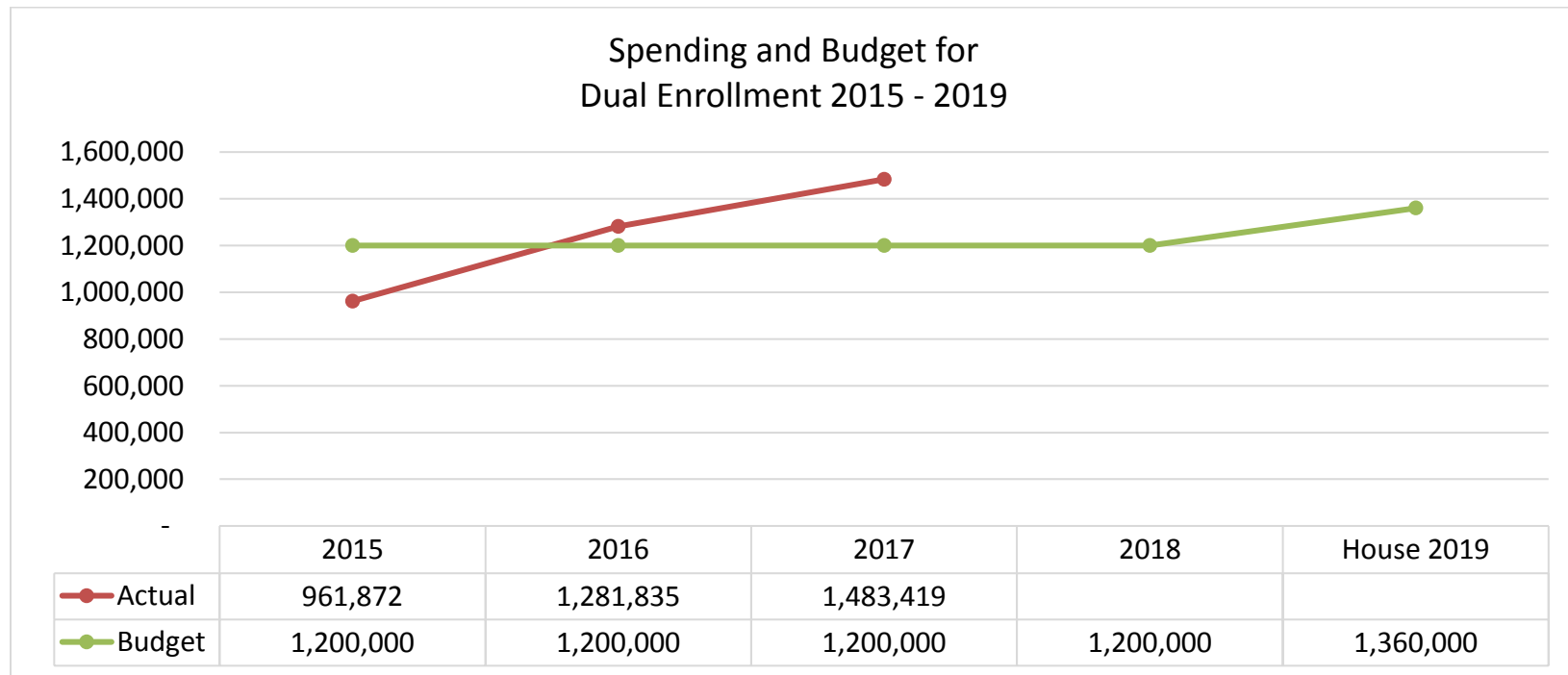
**S.257 Change:** The proposed change in S.257 constitutes an expansion of the program without an additional appropriation. This change will require additional funds to support the program. The AOE does not know how many non-publicly-funded independent school juniors and seniors would have voucher requests approved by their school principals/designees. However, if the program expands as proposed AOE will have to pay for these vouchers and regulate these schools, an additional commitment of time and personnel.

**Fiscal Estimate:**

If there are 100 students that are enrolled, and they each take 2 courses, at \$700 per course – **the total cost of the program could be \$140K (\$70K Education Fund, \$70K Next Generation Fund).**

- AOE estimates that there could be over 400 students eligible for the program next year if this change is adopted. If all students enrolled in dual enrollment courses the additional cost would exceed \$500K.

**Current Program – Fiscal Summary:**



**FY18 Dual Enrollment Rate Chart:** The Following chart reflects the adopted rates for FY 2018. The cost of the program is contingent upon how and where students are approved by their secondary schools to use their vouchers.

At the time of the dual enrollment offering:	
<i>Type of Course</i>	<i>FY 18 (Summer 17, Fall 17, Spring 18)</i>
When the course is delivered on a college campus and the college pays the instructor, all colleges (except CCV) are reimbursed the CCV rate for dual enrollment courses	Cost per credit (\$261) up to a 4-credit course. Most courses are 3 credits (\$783). <b>\$783 - \$1,044</b>
When the course is delivered on a college campus and CCV pays the instructor, CCV is reimbursed at 90% of their rate for CCV courses.	Cost per credit (\$234.90). Most courses are 3 credits (\$704.70). <b>\$704.70 - \$939.60</b>
When a course is delivered by a high school instructor and the high school pays the instructor, participating colleges are reimbursed 20% of the CCV rate for dual enrollment.	Cost per credit (\$52.20). Most courses are 3 credits (\$151.80). <b>\$151.80 - \$208.80</b>