

BILL # SB 1019

TITLE: schools; TAPBI program participants

SPONSOR: Waring

STATUS: As Amended by Senate ED

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FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

As amended by the Senate Education Committee, the bill would allow 4 additional sites (2 school districts and 2 charter schools) to participate in the Technology Assisted Project-Based Instruction (TAPBI) program established in A.R.S. § 15-808. This would expand TAPBI to a total of 18 sites (9 school districts + 9 charter schools) versus a total of 14 sites currently.

Estimated Impact

The bill is estimated to increase General Fund costs for Basic State Aid by roughly \$300,000 in FY 2008 based on current trends. The actual cost could be substantially higher or lower depending on the number and size of new sites that would open under the bill and the proportion of their students who would come from outside the public school system.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) does not have a cost estimate for this proposal.

Analysis

The existing 14 TAPBI programs served a total of 4,481 Average Daily Membership (ADM) pupils statewide in FY 2006 according to ADE data. This represents an increase of approximately 1,000 ADM pupils above FY 2005. The JLBC Staff projects a similar increase for FY 2008 under current law and assumes that approximately 200 (20%) of the additional 1,000 ADM students for that year will not have attended public schools in the prior year. The latter assumption is based on A.R.S. § 15-808(B), which requires at least 80% of TAPBI pupils “accepted each academic school year...to have been previously enrolled in and attended a public school in the previous school year.” The assumed 200 new students from outside of public schools in FY 2008 would increase Basic State Aid costs that year, since they would not have received Basic State Aid funding in the prior year. The remaining 800 “new” students, however, would have attended public schools in the prior year under these assumptions and therefore would not represent a new state cost.

SB 1019 would allow the number of TAPBI sites to increase by 28% for FY 2008 (4 new sites / 14 existing sites = 28% increase). If the number of new TAPBI students who were not in public schools in the prior year likewise increased by 28% that year relative to current law, the bill would increase statewide TAPBI ADM by another 56 students (200 student increase assumed under current law X 28% = 56 additional new students) in FY 2008.

Each new ADM pupil in FY 2008 will cost the state General Fund an estimated \$5,300, on average, under the Basic State Aid funding formula. The 56 additional new TAPBI students generated under the bill for FY 2008 under the assumptions described above therefore would increase state General Fund costs for Basic State Aid by approximately \$300,000 (56 new students X \$5,300 ≈ \$300,000).

The bill’s actual cost could be substantially higher or lower than \$300,000 depending on the following factors: 1) the size and number of new TAPBI sites that would open in FY 2008 under the bill, and 2) the proportion of their pupils coming from outside of the public school system. The cost of the bill could be less than \$300,000 if fewer than 4 new sites opened, if the new sites were relatively smaller than existing sites, or if fewer than 20% of their pupils came from outside the public school system. The number and characteristics of new TAPBI sites that would become established under the bill cannot be predicted with certainty.

Local Government Impact

The bill would increase Basic State Aid funding to any school district or charter school that established a new TAPBI program under the bill and that experienced an increase in its overall ADM count because of the new program. It also potentially could result in reductions in Basic State Aid funding to non-TAPBI school districts and charter schools if some of their existing students enrolled in the new TAPBI sites.

1/29/07