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MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on K-12 Education Budget
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 14, 2022
Subject: House Bill 2615 – Bill Brief

House Bill 2615 would authorize boards of education of school districts to adopt policies to allow students enrolled in grade 6 through 12 to earn course credits through alternative educational opportunities with sponsoring entities. HB 2615 provides definitions for the following terms:

- "Alternative educational opportunity" means instruction that primarily occurs outside the classroom with a sponsoring entity and is approved and meets course content standards as determined by the state board of education.
- "Sponsoring entity" means a business, not-for-profit organization, nonprofit organization, trade association, parent of a student, teacher or administrator that partners with a school district to provide an alternative educational opportunity to students.

HB 2615 would require a school district's policy to establish:

- Eligibility requirements for sponsoring entities;
- Requirements for the provision of alternative educational opportunities;
- Procedures for a sponsoring entity to submit proposals to provide alternative educational opportunities;
- Criteria to evaluate such proposals;
- Accountability measures for such alternative educational opportunities; and
- The course credit that may be earned through each alternative educational opportunity.

HB 2615 would authorize a school district to accept a proposal from a sponsoring entity if the alternative educational opportunity provides an additional learning opportunity through a work-based, pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, internship, industry certification or community program that improves the academic success students. The bill would require a licensed teacher at the school district to manage and direct each alternative educational opportunity that is provided.

If a school district approves a proposal for an alternative educational opportunity, the school district would be required to submit such proposal to the state board of education for final approval. The state board of education would be given 90 days to make a decision on whether to approve or deny the application. HB 2615 would authorize the state board of education to continue to oversee the alternative educational opportunities of school districts as the state board would be authorized to revoke any previously approved program upon a finding that the program fails to comply with the school district's policies.

HB 2615 would require school districts to report information to the state department of education on the alternative educational opportunities that are authorized in the school district, the names of the sponsoring entities, the number of students participating and the credits earned.