

HB 904 -- "8 IN 6 PROGRAM"

SPONSOR: Curtis

This bill establishes the 8 in 6 Program within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, compressing seventh and eighth grade, four years of high school, and the first two years of college or professional technical training into six years by allowing a student to take a full course load along with one or two on-line programs during the summer. Students who take the program will graduate from high school with an associate's degree. The department will pay a portion of the cost of summer on-line courses from funds appropriated for the program. The 8 in 6 Program Fund is created that must, upon appropriation, be used solely for the administration of the program.

A participating student must sign an agreement with his or her parent stating that the student will complete dual credit or professional-technical education courses for part of the student's eleventh and twelfth grade years in which funding will not be provided. The student will also complete at least one summer on-line course for which the state will pay \$225 per one credit summer on-line course, along with at least 14 credits per school year. The state will not pay for more than a combined total of eight credits of summer on-line courses.

No more than 25% of the students in each grade seven through 12 may participate in the program on a school district-by-school district, grade-by-grade basis. Participation slots not being used must be reallocated to those grades in which more than 25% of the students have applied and then to those school districts where more than 25% of students applied for the program. Students will remain in the program until they sign a withdrawal form or have graduated. If the amount of applicants exceeds the number of participation slots, participation preference criteria will be created by the school district.

Courses eligible for the program must be offered by an accredited institution. Dual credit, dual enrollment, and advanced placement courses are not eligible.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years after the effective date.