First Reading Item: V. G.

Course Access Program Rules 0520-01-14-.05 and -.07

The Background:

The Course Access Program Rules 0520-01-14 effectuate the Course Access Program Act, set forth in T.C.A. §§ 49-18-101-110. Chapter 235 of the Public Acts of 2025 (PC 235) repealed from statute certain program reporting requirements due to minimal district interest in the program over the last several years. First, it removes the requirement for the Tennessee Department of Education (Department) to publish a link to the course access catalog in a prominent location on its website. It also repealed the requirement that the Department make the following information publicly available: (1) the number of students participating in the course access program and the total number of courses in which students are enrolled; (2) the number of approved course providers; (3) the number of approved courses and the number of students enrolled in each course; (4) the number of courses available by subject and grade level; (5) the number of students enrolled in courses by subject and grade level; and (6) student outcome data, including course completion rates and other approved measures. Accordingly, this item proposes removing the corresponding language from rule.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading to collect public feedback.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

Connection to the Master Plan:

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Engagement and Accountability, outlined in the Master Plan, by ensuring the Rule aligns with changes in law to ensure the effective implementation of education policy.

The Recommendation:

SBE recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The Department staff concurs with this recommendation.