

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 9/9/2005

LRB Number	05-3105/4	Introduction Number	SB-310	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
School policies on bullying					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill directs Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop a model school policy on bullying. The policy must define bullying, prohibit pupils from bullying, and provide penalties for bullying. The policy must also include procedures for reporting bullying and for investigating such reports. The bill also directs DPI to develop a model education and awareness program on bullying.

The bill directs each school board to adopt a policy prohibiting bullying. The school board may adopt DPI's model policy. Once each year, the school board must distribute the policy to all pupils enrolled in the school district and to their parents. In addition, upon the occurrence of a bullying incident, the school board must distribute the policy to all pupils involved in the incident and to their parents.

Finally, this bill adds Wednesday of the fourth week in September, Bullying Awareness Day, to the list of special observance days for schools.

State fiscal effect:

The department will likely incur costs associated with developing a model school policy and model education and awareness program on bullying. These costs are indeterminate and would be absorbed within the agency's operating budget.

Local fiscal effect:

School districts may incur costs in establishing and adopting a policy prohibiting bullying. Those costs will vary depending on whether a district chooses to develop its own policy or adopt DPI's model policy. In addition, school districts would likely incur printing costs and possibly mailing costs to distribute the policy to all pupils and their parents. Since it is unknown how many districts would develop their own anti-bullying policy or what the volume of any printed materials would be, the local fiscal effect is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications