

Fiscal Estimate - 2019 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 19-5363/1	Introduction Number SB-789
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Description
 expanding the part-time open enrollment program

Fiscal Effect

State:

<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		

Local:

<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	

Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

Agency/Prepared By DPI/ Erin Fath (608) 266-2804	Authorized Signature Robert A Soldner (608) 267-9124	Date 2/17/2020
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 2/17/2020

LRB Number	19-5363/1	Introduction Number	SB-789	Estimate Type	Original
Description expanding the part-time open enrollment program					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, part-time open enrollment allows any high school student to take up to two courses at a non-resident public school. Resident school districts can reject applications if they conflict with a student's individualized education plan or pose an undue financial burden on the district. The resident school district is responsible for a part-time open enrollment payment to the non-resident school district, calculated in a manner determined by the department, by administrative rule (essentially, a prorated tuition payment).

This bill repeals the current law part-time open enrollment program for public schools under section 118.52, Wis. Stats., and replaces it with a new program, the "course choice program". The new program would expand eligibility to participate in the course choice program to students in grades one through twelve, and would include independent charter schools, private schools, and nonprofit organizations (though participation by private schools and nonprofit organizations would be optional).

Under the bill, the student's full-time educational institution would be responsible for a part-time open enrollment payment to the educational institution that the student attends to take a course (or courses) under the course choice program, calculated in a manner determined by the department, by administrative rule (essentially, a prorated tuition payment).

Under current law, DPI provides transportation assistance from a GPR annual appropriation, to parents whose students participate in full-time or part-time open enrollment, or in the early college credit program; by law, preference must be given to students who meet the eligibility for a free or reduced price lunch (FRL) under the federal FRL program. This bill does not change the appropriation for transportation assistance, but it does specify that the department would also have to give preference to students whose full-time education institution is located in a rural community (though "rural" is not explicitly defined under the bill).

Local Fiscal Impact:

The bill does not change the current law mechanism for part-time open enrollment payments between school districts. However, in expanding the program to include independent charter schools, private schools, and non-profit organizations, it does create the potential for public school districts to incur additional tuition costs for their resident students, if students were to enroll in courses at one of the other non-school district educational institutions that are eligible under the bill. Further, the bill creates the possibility that those non-school district entities would incur tuition payments to another educational institution, resulting in additional costs to those entities.

It is not possible to project the number of students who would choose to enroll part time in the various eligible educational institutions under the bill. The bill would essentially result in transfers of monies (for part-time tuition payments) among educational institutions, but the amounts are indeterminate.

State Fiscal Impact: no impact.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications