

### Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original       Updated       Corrected       Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> <b>23-5111/1</b>		<b>Introduction Number</b> <b>AB-0782</b>	
<b>Description</b> requiring public schools and private schools participating in a parental choice program to employ a full-time librarian and a school district revenue limit adjustment for the cost of employing full-time librarians			
<b>Fiscal Effect</b>			
<b>State:</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect			
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate			
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
<b>Local:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate			
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs		3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		<input checked="" 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	
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		
<b>Fund Sources Affected</b>		<b>Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS			
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>		<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 1/2/2024

LRB Number	23-5111/1	Introduction Number	AB-0782	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> requiring public schools and private schools participating in a parental choice program to employ a full-time librarian and a school district revenue limit adjustment for the cost of employing full-time librarians					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would require public schools, and independent charter school, and private schools that are participating in a parental choice program to employ a licensed instructional library media specialist on a full-time basis for each school within the district.

Under current law, the amount of revenue per pupil a school district may receive from general school aids and property taxes is limited by the number of pupils in the previous school year. Some exceptions exist, that allow school districts to make adjustments by providing additional services.

This bill would require public schools, private schools, and charter schools that are participating in a parental choice program to employ a licensed instructional library media specialist on a full-time basis for each school within the district.

This bill creates a non-recurring revenue limit adjustment for school districts for the amount spent in the previous school year to employ a full-time instructional media specialist (school librarian) for any school that does not already employ a full-time school librarian.

If the school board adopts the revenue limit, the school board must state in a resolution the extent the school board was already in compliance with the requirement, and the school district's revenue limit is increased by the amount spent in the previous school year to come into full compliance with the requirement in the bill.

State Impact: No direct impact

This bill has no direct impact on state fiscal operations.

Local Impact: Indeterminate

This bill would increase operational costs for schools by requiring schools to employ a full-time instructional media specialist (school librarian) in each school in the district. Based on a search with online tool Zip Recruiter, the average starting salary (excluding fringe benefit costs) for a Library Media Specialist is \$49,000 annually. Another source for salaries for library position is the website "Librarian Certification", which cites data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021 data) for Librarian and Media Specialist positions: median salary of \$59,000 annually, and the range of salaries between \$37,630 (10th percentile) and \$77,730 (90th percentile) - excluding fringe benefit costs. The fringe benefit for these positions would vary based on the employer.

This bill would allow school districts to increase their allowable levy under school district revenue limits, to cover the cost of the school librarian position without having to use base resources. The bill creates the adjustment as non-recurring revenue limit exemption, meaning the additional revenue authority would be added for one year only (though a district could choose to pursue a resolution for the adjustment each year).

It is unknown how many school boards would choose to pursue a resolution to utilize the revenue limit exemption for the costs of employing a school librarian/media specialist in each school. For those that would pass a resolution, the cost per librarian/media specialist position is likely to be at least \$50,000 plus associated fringe benefits, and potentially more, depending on the employee's level of experience and local labor market conditions.

It is unknown how many independent charter schools or how many private parental choice schools already employ full-time librarian/media specialist positions. The cost per position would likely be similar to the estimate provided for public schools (above). The bill does not provide additional funding for independent charter schools or private parental choice schools.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

This would increase school administrative costs as well as potentially increasing property taxes via the school tax levy.