

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 2/14/2005

LRB Number	05-1236/1	Introduction Number	AB-84	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Number of school days required each school term					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Currently, school must be held at least 180 days during the school term. In addition, each school board must schedule at least 437 hours of direct public instruction in kindergarten, at least 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1 to 6, and at least 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7 to 12.

2005 Assembly Bill 84 keeps the requirement that school be held for the minimum required hours of instruction outlined above, but eliminates the requirement that school be held for at least 180 days. If the bill were enacted, PI 8.01 (2) (f) of the Administrative Code would need to be revised. It is assumed that the cost of doing so could be absorbed by the department.

The bill would give school districts flexibility in determining how to meet the hour requirements. For example, it is possible that schools could operate 4 days a week or take time off in the winter months to save on fuel and/or other operational expenses. The department does not have data that would indicate what savings, if any, would be realized by school districts if they choose to utilize these or other potential options.

While it is not possible to calculate the local fiscal impact of this proposed bill on school districts, it can be argued that the bill would have no fiscal effect on local property tax levies. Under current law, operational expenses are one of many costs funded by school districts under their state-imposed revenue limits. Further, since nearly all school districts use their maximum allowable revenue limit authority each year, it could be assumed that any cost savings realized by a district due to a reduction in operational expenses would very likely be replaced by other district costs under existing revenue limits.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications