

Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 09-2090/2	Introduction Number AB-0188	
Description Awarding grants to school districts for language immersion schools and making an appropriation		
Fiscal Effect		
State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		
Local: <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts		
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS Newly created Section 20.255 (2) (er)		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 5/15/2009

LRB Number 09-2090/2	Introduction Number AB-0188	Estimate Type Original
Description Awarding grants to school districts for language immersion schools and making an appropriation		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill directs the Department of Public Instruction annually to award grants to school districts that operate language immersion schools in any grade from kindergarten to 8. A language immersion school is one in which the second language is used in all instruction (other than English instruction) and in all classroom activities. The amount of each grant is \$1,000 times the number of students enrolled in the language immersion school. The bill creates a sum sufficient appropriation for this purpose.

State: The bill is unclear as to the number of students that should be counted toward the grant award. Section 2 of the bill requires that eligible schools must operate a language immersion program in any grade from kindergarten to 8. The Milwaukee School of Languages operates a language immersion program in grades 6 to 12 and therefore satisfies this requirement. However, the bill also specifies that grants are to be determined by multiplying \$1,000 by the number of students that are enrolled in the language immersion school, instead of only those students that are enrolled in grades K through grade 8. Therefore, in estimating the cost of the bill had it been in effect in 2008-09, two numbers have been calculated: a lower figure not including the 547 9th to 12th grade students at the Milwaukee School of Languages and a higher figure including these students.

Five schools in the state meet the requirement for receiving grants under the terms of the proposed bill. Those schools -- the Milwaukee French Immersion School (404 students in grades K to 5), the Milwaukee German Immersion School (595 students in grades K to 5), the Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School (541 students in grades K to 5), the Italian Immersion School (65 students in grades K to 1, with one additional grade to be added each year) and the Milwaukee School of Languages (536 students in grades 6 to 8; 547 students in grades 9 to 12 for a total of 1,083 students in grades 6 to 12) -- have a combined 2008-09 pupil enrollment of either 2,141 or 2,688 depending on whether or not the 547 9th to 12th grade students at the Milwaukee School of Languages are counted. Therefore, if this bill had been in effect during the 2008-09 school year, the Milwaukee school district would have received either \$2,141,000 GPR (2,141 times \$1,000) or \$2,688,000 GPR (2,688 times \$1,000), depending on whether or not the 547 9th to 12th grade students at the Milwaukee School of Languages are included in the student count.

It was assumed that in order to provide a true measure of the 2008-09 cost of this program all three of levels of kindergarten (K3, K4, and K) needed to be included in the student count numbers listed in the paragraph above. It is not possible to predict how many pupils will be enrolled in language immersion schools in coming years so the extent to which the state costs would be higher or lower than the 2008-09 estimate is indeterminate.

Local: The school district of Milwaukee is the only local unit of government in the state that would presently be affected by the bill. The five Milwaukee schools mentioned above enroll either 2,141 or 2,688 pupils that would be counted under the terms of the bill and therefore would have received the cumulative amount of either \$2,141,000 or \$2,688,000 (\$1,000 per pupil) if this bill had been in effect for the 2008-09 school year. However, since it is not possible to predict how many pupils will be enrolled in language immersion schools in coming years, the local fiscal effect is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Should future pupil counts of language immersion schools exceed the current enrollment of 2,141 or 2,688, grant monies will not have to be pro-rated. Assuming the program maintains sum sufficient funding, more grant funding, adequate to maintain the level of \$1,000 per eligible student, will be allocated to fund program growth. Similarly, if the number of pupils in language immersion programs decline, the amount of the sum sufficient appropriation will be reduced.