

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 4/25/2009

LRB Number	09-1810/1	Introduction Number	AB-0200	Estimate Type	Original
Description The number of school days required each school term					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Currently, school is required to be held for at least 180 days during the school term (the time beginning with the first school day and ending with the last school day that the schools are in operation for the attendance of pupils in a school year). In addition, each school board must schedule at least 437 hours of direct pupil 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. This bill retains the requirement that school be held for these minimum required hours of instruction but eliminates the requirement that school be held for at least 180 days.

State: If the bill were enacted, PI 8.01(2)(f) of the Administrative Code, requiring each school board to schedule at least 180 days of school annually, would have to be revised. It is assumed that the cost of doing so would be absorbed by the department.

Local: The bill would give school districts the 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 to 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