

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 3/17/2009

LRB Number	09-2194/1	Introduction Number	SB-109	Estimate Type	Original
Description Commencement of the school term in public schools					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would allow local districts to start classes prior to September 1. Currently, school districts are prohibited from beginning fall classes until September 1. A school board may commence the school term before September 1 in any school year the school board requests the department to allow it to commence the school term before September 1 and the school board includes reasons with its request. The department may grant a request only if it determines there are extraordinary reasons for granting it. The department has promulgated rules to administer this requirement.

State: The department gets few requests for waivers from the September 1 commencement requirement. In 2007, there were seven requests; three were approved. In 2008, there were seven requests; two were approved. In 2009, there has been one request to date and it has been approved. Since it is not anticipated that the department will realize a significant decline in its workload if this bill is passed, there is no state fiscal effect.

Local: The school start date is negotiable between school districts and unions. It is impossible to predict whether removal of the September 1 requirement, which would open up more possible start dates for negotiation, will have any effect on teacher pay. In addition, the department cannot estimate whether there would be any operational cost savings to districts by starting prior to September 1. Therefore, local fiscal effect, if any, is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications