

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 6/15/2009

LRB Number	09-1814/1	Introduction Number	SB-202	Estimate Type	Original
Description School policies on bullying					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

State: The bill requires the department, by 2010, to develop a model school policy on bullying by pupils. The policy must include specified information and be posted on the department's web site. The department already has Bullying Prevention Policy Guidelines posted on its web site that include most of the information required in the bill. It is assumed that any additional costs associated with updating these guidelines will be absorbed by the department.

Local: The bill requires each school board (including a first-class city school board), by August 15, 2010, to adopt a policy prohibiting bullying by pupils. The school board may adopt the department's policy. If a school board develops its own policy, it will have costs associated with establishing and adopting a new policy. It is assumed that most school boards will adopt the department's policy. Therefore, any fiscal cost to a school district regarding this provision should be minimal.

The bill requires the school board to provide a copy of the policy to any person who requests it and annually distribute the policy to all pupils enrolled in the school district and their parents and guardians.

All school boards will have costs associated with printing the bullying policy and mailing or distributing it to pupils and parents. Costs will vary among school districts depending on whether districts create their own policy or adopt the department's model policy, the volume of printing, and the method of distributing the policy. In addition, some school districts already provide bullying policy information to pupils and parents. The number of school districts that provide such information is not known. The local fiscal effect of this provision is indeterminate.

The bill designates Wednesday of the fourth week in September as Bullying Awareness Day for purposes of school recognition. The cost of establishing a special observance day relating to bullying will vary from district to district depending on what the district determines to be appropriate as specified under s. 118.02, Stats. Therefore, these costs are indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications