

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 1/22/2016

LRB Number	15-4275/1	Introduction Number	SB-583	Estimate Type	Original
Description					
Grants for participation in robotics competitions and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Instruction to award grants to teams of pupils in the 9th through 12th grades in the 2016–17 and 2017–18 school years. The grants are to be used to facilitate participation in robotics competitions. No later than April 1, 2016, and no later than April 1, 2017, the Department is required to notify school boards, operators of charter schools under s. 118.40(2r) and (2x), and administrators of home-based private educational programs that applications for grants will be accepted from eligible teams through a date set forth in the notice.

This bill provides \$500,000 GRR funding in fiscal year 2016-17 to fund the grants under a new appropriation 20.255(2)(dr) within the Department's Aids for Local Education Programming appropriation. From that appropriation the department may award grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible teams selected from the applicants. Grant funds awarded may be applied only towards allowable expenses which includes: fees, kits, and supplies required to participate in a robotics competition, travel expenses to a robotics completion for eligible team members, and a stipend for the mentor of an eligible team.

The department is required to annually publish on its Internet site a list of grant recipients and submit a report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature.

Local: The bill could increase revenues to eligible school districts (indeterminate).

State: This bill increases state appropriations to \$500,000 for Grants to Robotics Teams under 115.45. Actual expenditures would depend on the number of eligible schools seeking grants.

The Department is likely to incur additional costs to develop and administer the grant program and the new reporting requirements. The bill provides no additional budget or position authority to the Department to administer this program, thus the Department would have to absorb the additional costs of implementing this program.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

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