

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 8/8/2021

LRB Number	21-3293/1	Introduction Number	AB-0460	Estimate Type	Original
Description requiring voter education instruction in the elementary and high school grades and incorporating voter education instruction into the state model social studies standards					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires school boards and operators of independent charter schools to include, as part of the social studies curriculum, at least one hour of voter education instruction in each elementary and high school grade. The bill specifies specific information that must be provided to pupils in the elementary grades, middle school grades, and high school grades. The bill also requires the state superintendent of public instruction to incorporate voter education instruction into the model academic standards for social studies and to develop model curriculum on the same subject.

State: No fiscal impact

This bill requires the Department to incorporate voter education instruction into the model academic standards for social studies and to develop model curriculum on the same subject. As the bill does not appropriate additional funds to complete this task, any requisite operational changes will be absorbed within existing Department resources. Accordingly, the fiscal impact to the state as a result of this bill is negligible.

Local: No fiscal impact

Under the bill, school boards and operators of independent charter schools are required to include, as part of the social studies curriculum, at least one hour of voter education instruction in each elementary and high school grade. Beginning July 1, 2022, instruction in the elementary grades shall include information on how the electoral process works, information on the importance of voting, mock elections, and information on who is eligible to vote. Additionally, in the middle school and high school grades, instruction shall include information on the requirements and procedures for voting in-person and absentee, information on how pupils may locate reliable information about political candidates and issues, and the Internet site addresses for official state government voting resources, including the elections commission's Internet site. Finally, in the high school grades, instruction shall include information on the importance of voting, information on how to register to vote, information on how to obtain and cast an absentee ballot, information on the use of paper ballots and voting systems, and information regarding how and where military electors and students attending postsecondary educational institutions may vote.

Pursuant to s. 121.02 (k), Stats., it is the responsibility of local school boards to develop sequential curriculum plans in each subject area and to adopt and provide all instructional materials and texts. The bill does not appropriate any funds to support teacher professional development or resource procurement on the topic, so any changes as a result of the bill would be absorbed by existing resources used by school boards and operators of independent charter schools. As a result, there is no fiscal impact to local governments as a result of this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

None.