

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 1/1/2024

LRB Number	23-5367/1	Introduction Number	SB-0837	Estimate Type	Original
Description required instruction in civics in the elementary and high school grades, high school graduation requirements, and private school educational program criteria					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the state superintendent of public instruction to promulgate rules to develop a model curriculum and instructional materials for grades kindergarten to 12 on civic education to prepare pupils to be civically responsible and knowledgeable adults. The model curriculum and instructional materials must be designed to assist pupils in developing all of the following:

- An understanding of pupils' shared rights and responsibilities as residents of this state and the United States and of the founding principles of the United States.
- A sense of civic pride and desire to participate regularly with government at the local, state, and federal levels.
- An understanding of the process for effectively advocating before governmental bodies and officials.
- An understanding of the civic-minded expectations of an upright and desirable citizenry that recognizes and accepts responsibility for preserving and defending the benefits of liberty inherited from previous generations and secured by the U.S. Constitution.
- Knowledge of other nations' governing philosophies, including communism, socialism, and totalitarianism, and an understanding of how those philosophies compare with the philosophy and principles of freedom and representative democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States.

Under this bill the state superintendent must curate oral history resources to be used along with the model curriculum. Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, the bill requires school boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program to include in their respective curricula instruction in civics that includes the five components required to be included in the model curriculum. The bill also requires school boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program to annually report to the Department of Public Instruction regarding how they are meeting the civics instruction requirement created under the bill. DPI must then compile the information and submit it to the legislature.

Currently under state law, a pupil must earn at least three credits of social studies, including state and local government. The bill specifies that the social studies credits also must include one-half credit of civics instruction. This graduation requirement first applies to pupils who graduate in the 2027-28 school year.

Local: Indeterminate

The impact of this bill may result in increased costs for school boards, independent charter schools and private schools to include civic education instruction in their respective curricula that is consistent with the model curriculum and to comply with the bill's additional reporting requirements. Since curriculum currently being used will vary among schools, the costs are indeterminate. Schools may also incur additional costs for professional development for teachers to provide this instruction. Since it is unknown the level of need among schools as well as the cost to schools of providing this additional teacher training the costs are unknown.

State: Indeterminate

The Department through WISELearn online resources maintains a repository of educational and professional learning resources as well as high quality instructional materials that are publicly available. The department could potentially incur some additional costs to curate oral history resources from outside resources if not available on WISELearn. It is unknown what those potential cost would be. Because the bill does not provide

additional funding for administrative costs including additional information collection and reporting requirements, the department would have to reallocate resources and absorb any additional costs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications