

Fiscal Estimate - 2025 Session

☒ Original ☐ Updated ☐ Corrected ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number **25-1842/1**

Introduction Number **SB-0030**

Description

required instruction in civics in the elementary and high school grades, high school graduation requirements, and private school educational program criteria

Fiscal Effect

State:

☐ No State Fiscal Effect

☒ Indeterminate

☐ Increase Existing
Appropriations

☐ Decrease Existing
Appropriations

☐ Create New Appropriations

☐ Increase Existing
Revenues

☐ Decrease Existing
Revenues

☒ Increase Costs - May be possible to
absorb within agency's budget

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Decrease Costs

Local:

☐ No Local Government Costs

☒ Indeterminate

1. ☒ Increase Costs

☐ Permissive ☒ Mandatory

2. ☐ Decrease Costs

☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory

3. ☐ Increase Revenue

☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory

4. ☐ Decrease Revenue

☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory

5. Types of Local Government

Units Affected

☐ Towns

☐ Village

☐ Cities

☐ Counties

☐ Others

☒ School
Districts

☐ WTCS
Districts

Fund Sources Affected

☐ GPR ☐ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEGS

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

Agency/Prepared By

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Date

2/13/2025

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 2/13/2025

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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

Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, this bill requires school boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program ("schools") to include in their respective curriculum and instruction in civics that includes specific topics and pupil development goals outlined in bill. The bill also requires schools to annually report to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) regarding how they are meeting the civics instruction requirement created under the bill and requires DPI to then compile the information and submit it to the Legislature.

This bill also creates a new civics credit requirement for high school graduation from a high school in a school district (the credit requirement does not apply to independent charter schools or private schools participating in a private school choice program). Currently, a pupil must earn at least three credits in 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 2030-31 school year (i.e., generally, pupils who matriculate high school in the 2026-27 school year).

State Impact: Indeterminate

The bill requires DPI to collect information from schools regarding Civics instruction and compile the information into a report to be submitted to the Legislature. DPI would need to dedicate staff resources to this new responsibility. The bill does not provide additional funding for the additional administrative workload in DPI; thus, the department would have to reallocate resources and absorb any added costs.

Local Impact: Indeterminate

This bill may increase costs for schools related to including civics education instruction in their respective curricula (to comply with the half credit requirement) 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 the level of need among schools is unknown as well as the cost to schools of providing this added teacher training the costs are unknown.

Additionally, the requirement for students to earn a half credit in civics (to receive a high school diploma) could possibly result in educators needing to meet additional licensure requirements – e.g., if a school district does not currently offer a course in civics taught by an appropriately licensed teacher. This would likely be a cost borne by the individual educator (not to the school).

Long-Range Fiscal Implications