

Fiscal Estimate - 2025 Session

☒ Original ☐ Updated ☐ Corrected ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number **25-3756/1** Introduction Number **SB-0357**

Description

establishing English as the official state language, use of artificial intelligence or other machine-assisted translation tools in lieu of appointing English language interpreters, and use of English for governmental oral and written communication and for nongovernmental purposes

Fiscal Effect

State:

- ☐ No State Fiscal Effect
☒ Indeterminate
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations | | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs |

Local:

- ☐ No Local Government Costs
☒ Indeterminate
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
<input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities
<input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others
<input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | |

Fund Sources Affected

☐ GPR ☐ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEGS

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 7/3/2025

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

State Impact: Indeterminate

SB 357 would create operational costs for the department as it adapts to the bill's mandates. While the department may see modest reductions in expenditures related to interpreter reimbursements or translation support, these would likely be offset by new administrative burdens. The department would need to update guidance documents, issue legal and compliance advisories to districts, and provide training to ensure consistent statewide implementation—particularly in areas where federal and state language access requirements may conflict. The department may also need to invest in oversight mechanisms to monitor the use and accuracy of AI translation tools and respond to complaints or compliance issues. Additionally, the department would likely face increased demands from school districts seeking clarification or support, requiring more staff time and coordination. Overall, the fiscal impact on department operations is indeterminate but likely includes increased short-term administrative and compliance costs.

Local Impact: Indeterminate

Locally, SB 357 could impose new costs on school districts related to the purchase of AI translation software, integration into existing communication systems, and staff training to operate and monitor these tools—each of which may require ongoing technical support. While the bill may reduce short-term expenses by decreasing reliance on human interpreters, especially in routine communications, districts could face increased legal and administrative costs if machine translation errors lead to complaints or due process violations, particularly in high-stakes areas such as special education meetings or student disciplinary actions. As a result, while there may be potential for modest savings, the fiscal impact on schools is ultimately indeterminate and highly dependent on implementation, compliance oversight, and the frequency of legal challenges.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications