

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 21-3781/1	Introduction Number AB-0446
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Description
 reading readiness assessments and granting rule-making authority

Fiscal Effect

State:

No State Fiscal Effect
 Indeterminate

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease 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 Costs
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Local:

No Local Government Costs
 Indeterminate

1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
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Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	20.255 (1) (f)

Agency/Prepared By DPI/ Grant Huber (608) 267-2003	Authorized Signature Erin Fath (608) 266-2804	Date 7/23/2021
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 7/23/2021

LRB Number	21-3781/1	Introduction Number	AB-0446	Estimate Type	Original
Description reading readiness assessments and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill replaces the current reading readiness assessment program with a three-tiered early literacy screening program. The bill also adds additional reporting requirements for both the Department and for school boards and independent charter schools.

This bill requires school boards and independent charter schools to assess the early literacy skill of pupils in four-year-old-kindergarten to second grade using various screening assessments and to create a personal reading plan for each pupil in five-year-old kindergarten to second grade who is identified as at-risk based on a universal screening assessment or a level 1 screening assessment. Under the bill, "at-risk" means the pupil scored below the 25th percentile on an applicable screening assessment, as indicated by the screening assessment publisher.

Under this bill by July 15, 2022, the Department must establish and maintain lists of approved fundamental skills screening assessments, universal screening assessments, level 1 screening assessments, and level 2 screening assessments (collectively, reading readiness screening assessments) on its Internet site. DPI must also submit these lists to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature. During the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, DPI must include specific assessments on its list of approved fundamental skills screening assessments and specific assessments on its list of approved universal screening assessments. Annually, by November 30, DPI must compile the information it receives from school boards and independent charter schools and submit a report to the legislature.

Under the bill, the Department must pay each school board and independent charter school for the per pupil cost of each reading readiness screening assessment required to be administered under the bill. However, beginning in the 2023-24 school year, a school board or independent charter school is eligible for the state funding provided in the bill only if the school board or independent charter school submits an annual report to the Department and in that report indicates that the school board or charter school used only approved reading readiness screening assessments in the previous school year.

Under the bill, school boards and independent charter schools must annually, by July 15, report to DPI 1) the number of pupils who were identified as at-risk based on a reading readiness screening assessment administered in the previous school year; 2) the number of five-year-old kindergarten to second grade pupils who began receiving literacy interventions or remedial reading services in the previous school year, by grade; and 3) the total number of five-year-old kindergarten to second grade pupils who received literacy interventions or remedial reading services in the previous school year.

The school board or independent charter school must also report the names of the specific reading readiness screening assessments the school board or independent charter school used to screen pupils, as required under the bill, in the previous school year. The bill also creates number of parent notifications requirements which school boards and charter schools must follow in addition to a requirement to create an early literacy remediation plan for at risk pupils.

Local: Indeterminate

Generally, the impact of this bill would likely result in increased costs for school districts and charter schools due to the increased number and frequency of required assessments. Those added costs would likely include increased staff time and resources to administer the assessments, create remediation plans if needed, and comply with new reporting and parental notification requirements. Since the cost and number of assessments administered will likely vary across districts and the number of eligible districts that would seek reimbursement is unknown, the costs are indeterminate. Further, should eligible costs exceed the current appropriations of \$2.1 million, reimbursement payments to school districts and charter schools would need to be prorated.

State: Indeterminate

The Department would likely dedicate additional staff resources/time in order to meet the requirements under

the bill related to: 1) establishing and maintaining the required lists of approved reading readiness screening assessments; and 2) additional reporting.

Since the bill does not provide additional funding for administrative costs, the Department would have to reallocate resources and absorb any additional administrative costs related to implementation, monitoring, and compliance.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications