

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1199

AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY IN EDUCATION.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	Up to 3.25 million	Up to 9.25 million
Education, Dept.	GF - Savings	See Below	See Below
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	Up to 170,000	Up to 170,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Cost	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill results in costs to the State Department of Education and potential costs to local and regional school districts beginning in FY 24. It makes several changes, discussed below in more detail, regarding teacher recruitment, curriculum, and student support services.

Section 1 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish an educator apprenticeship initiative beginning in FY 24 and requires SDE to seek certification from the Department of Labor for the purpose of leveraging Federal funding for this purpose. Any impact

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

associated with this provision would depend on the extent to which Federal funding is used for the initiative. Apprenticeships certified by the Department of Labor involve paid positions.

Sections 2 and 3 require local and regional school districts to establish plans for increasing educator diversity, submit the plans to SDE for review and approval, and, beginning in FY 25, implement the plans. This has no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that districts and SDE can complete the requirements with existing resources.

Sections 4 and 12 establish the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program for eligible students to receive scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year of enrollment in teacher preparation programs. SHB 6659, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, provides funding of \$3 million in FY 24 and \$9 million in FY 25 to fund the scholarship. It also provides funding of \$250,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to administer the program. Fringe benefits associated with program administration are anticipated to total \$107,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25.

Section 4 contains scholarship repayment provisions for recipients who are not employed as teachers for three consecutive years immediately following graduation from a teacher preparation program, which may result in a revenue gain to the General Fund in the out years.

Sections 5 to 8 make technical changes and have no fiscal impact.

Section 9 allows the State Department of Education to issue adjunct professor permits to certain instructors at institutions of higher education to allow them to teach high school courses in local and regional school districts. This has no fiscal impact, as it is not anticipated to change the cost to districts of educator personnel.

Section 10 expands the state model curriculum to include cursive and, beginning in kindergarten, world languages. The bill allows districts to incorporate some of the curriculum without adopting all of it and maintains that use of the model curriculum is an option (not a

requirement). Districts that choose to implement the world languages aspect of the model curriculum may incur a cost.

Section 11 allows completion of a Learner Engagement and Attendance Program or other credit recovery program to count toward a district's graduation requirements. This has no fiscal impact as it does not change the curriculum any district is required to offer.

Section 13 caps at \$2 million the amount of Open Choice grant funding that would otherwise lapse and is used to provide services to students participating in the Open Choice program, beginning in FY 24. This amount is currently uncapped and applies to excess Open Choice funding above \$1 million. The section results in an anticipated annual savings to the General Fund, equal to the amount of excess Open Choice funds above \$3 million.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.