

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6544-01
Bill No.: HB 2569
Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Disabilities
Type: Original
Date: March 22, 2016

Bill Summary: This proposal requires a student to receive instruction in Braille reading and writing if an assessment demonstrates the need for the instruction.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 6 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Local Government	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille instructor)	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille instructor)	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille instructor)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** assume there does not appear to be a state fiscal impact. Local school districts will likely incur significant costs. DESE estimates the salary for a Braille instructor at \$60,000 plus \$34,200 [57% (school district benefit percentage)] for a total of \$94,200.

Oversight notes there are 518 school districts in the state that may be impacted by this proposal. DESE was unable to provide Oversight with the number of Braille instructors currently working in the school districts. However, they were able to say that in the 2014 school year 43 school districts provided a course for visual instruction. Oversight will show the impact of this proposal as Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille instructor.

Officials at the **Concordia R-II School District** assume the cost of a certified brailist is upwards of \$35,000 (not including expenses). The cost of a low volume braille printer is between \$1,500 -\$5,000 and the cost of Braille paper for 500 sheets is roughly \$25. In a year you would go through anywhere between 5,000-10,000 sheets depending on what textbooks you could find from the Library of the Blind and which ones you would have to Braille yourself. A district would have to find a certified teacher of the visually impaired or pay to get a teacher certified. The cost for a teacher with benefits could be as much as \$55,000-\$65,000. The cost to get a new teacher (\$42,000) trained would be approximately \$8,000-\$10,000 with tuition, books and a mentor. The other alternative is to send them to Children's Center for the Visually Impaired and pay tuition and transportation can run as much as \$55,000 to \$60,000 a year depending on where and how you are transporting the student.

Officials at the **Kearney R-I School District** assume a cost of \$5,000 (\$1,000 for each child with visual impairments).

Officials at the **Lewis County C-1 School District** assume it would depend on the number of students that would need instruction. The cost is unknown but would be the cost of a certified teacher.

Officials at the **Macon County R-IV School District** assume no impact at this time. However should a student need the service the cost could be extensive.

Officials at the **New Haven School District** assume a cost of \$50,000 annually for a certified teacher.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials at the **St. Elizabeth School District** assume the cost would be for a certified teacher at \$32,000.

Officials at the **West Plains School District** assume a cost of \$45,000 to \$65,000 annually per teacher.

Officials at the **Wright City R-II School District** assume no impact as the district already provides this service.

Officials at the **Everton, Kansas City** and **Malta Bend** school districts each assume there is no fiscal impact from this proposal to their respective districts.

Officials at the **Special School District of St. Louis** stated they were unable to determine a fiscal impact at this time.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2017 (10 Mo.)	FY 2018	FY 2019
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2017 (10 Mo.)	FY 2018	FY 2019
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LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDS

	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille <u>instructor</u>)	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille <u>instructor</u>)	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille <u>instructor</u>)
<u>Costs - School Districts - hiring a Braille instructor</u>			

	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille <u>instructor</u>)	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille <u>instructor</u>)	(Unknown, \$100,000 per district that needs a Braille <u>instructor</u>)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDS			

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

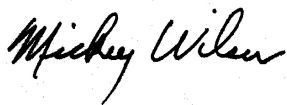
Currently, state law permits students to receive instruction in Braille as part of their individualized education plans (IEPs). This bill requires a student to receive instruction in Braille reading and writing as part of his or her IEP unless, as a result of an assessment, instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is determined not appropriate for the child.

This bill defines "assessment" as the National Reading Media Assessment or another research-based assessment or series of research-based assessments under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that determines a child's learning media skills.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Concordia R-II School District
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Everton School District
Kansas City Public Schools
Kearney R-I School District
Lewis County C-1 School District
Macon County R-IV School District
Malta Bend School District
New Haven School District
Special School District of St. Louis
St. Elizabeth School District
West Plains School District
Wright City R-II School District



Mickey Wilson, CPA

Ross Strobe

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Director
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Assistant Director
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