



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 816

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1056

Senate, May 13, 2015

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. BYE of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF DATA RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) On or before July 15, 2016,
2 and annually thereafter, each local and regional board of education
3 shall submit a report on its expenditures for special education for the
4 prior fiscal year to the Department of Education. Such report shall
5 include, but need not be limited to, (1) total expenditures for special
6 education of the board of education, (2) expenditures for special
7 education as a percentage of total school district expenditures, and (3)
8 individual expenditures for each child requiring special education who
9 is under the jurisdiction of the board of education. Such report shall
10 not be a public record, as defined in section 1-200 of the general
11 statutes, except that nothing in this section shall be construed to
12 prevent the disclosure of information that is included in the strategic
13 school profile under subsection (c) of section 10-220 of the general
14 statutes.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	up to 30,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE - Cost	up to 1,000	up to 1,000

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill requires local and regional school districts to report the following to the State Department of Education (SDE): (1) total expenditures for special education of the board of education, (2) expenditures for special education as a percentage of total school district expenditures, and (3) individual expenditures for each child requiring special education who is under the jurisdiction of the board of education. This could result in a minimal cost, estimated to be up to \$1,000, to some districts to upgrade information technology programming, to collect the required data.

Section 2 of the bill requires SDE to report on disaggregated data relating to the expenditures for special education by local and regional boards of education for the prior fiscal year. Due to the volume of newly collected data, this is anticipated to result in a one-time cost of up to \$30,000 to SDE for upgrade modifications to the existing data collection system.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, except for the costs identified as being one-time in nature.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1056*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF DATA RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires, beginning July 15, 2016, each local and regional board of education to annually report to the State Department of Education (SDE) on its special education expenditures for the prior fiscal year. The report must include at least:

1. the board of education's total expenditures for special education,
2. such spending as a percentage of total school district expenditures, and
3. individual expenditures for each child requiring special education who is under the board's jurisdiction.

The bill exempts these annual reports from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), except for any report contents that a strategic school profile report (see BACKGROUND) might also contain. School profile reports are public records.

It also requires SDE, annually by October 1, to submit to the Education Committee a disaggregated data report detailing local and regional board of education special education expenditures for the prior fiscal year. The report must include, at least, a breakdown of the total number of special education students in each district whose per-pupil educational cost to the district exceeds the "net current expenditures per resident student" (see COMMENT) multiplied by (1) two, (2) two and a half, (3) three, (4) three and a half, (5) four, and (6) four and a half.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

BACKGROUND

Strategic School Profile Report

These reports contain school and district information about various topics, such as student needs, school resources, student and school performance, and the provision of special education services. By law, local and regional boards of education must create and submit these reports to the education commissioner (CGS § 10-220).

Legislative History

The Education Committee reported the bill with a joint favorable change of reference to the Appropriations Committee, which then reported a substitute that removes a reduction of district special education per-pupil excess costs to be phased-in over four fiscal years (FYs 18-21).

COMMENT

Incorrect Internal Statutory Reference

The bill defines “net current expenditures per resident student” as identical to the definition in CGS § 10-76g; however, no such term or definition appears in existing law or the bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/18/2015)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 56 Nay 0 (04/29/2015)