

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-154

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOLS.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 4302)

House Calendar No.: 480

Senate Calendar No.: 64

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 25 \$</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>
Education, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Board of Regents for Higher Education	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

### ***Municipal Impact:***

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 25 \$</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>
Various Local Boards of Education	Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Various Local Boards of Education	See Below	See Below	See Below

## ***Explanation***

The bill makes a variety of changes regarding the State Department of Education and local and regional school districts. The impact of these changes is described by section below.

**Section 1** has no fiscal impact. It requires SDE to conduct a comprehensive audit of student assessments and submit a report regarding the audit by January 31, 2026. It is anticipated that SDE can

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complete this work with existing resources.

**Section 2** has no fiscal impact. It requires districts that operate Open Choice programs, beginning in FY 25, to include projected Open Choice grant funding in their annual budget documents. It is anticipated that districts can complete this requirement with existing resources.

**Sections 3 to 5** delay potential costs incurred by certain local and regional school districts. The sections delay, until July 1, 2025, any action that the State Board of Education (SBE) or a local or regional school district are required to take when SBE has found that racial imbalance exists in such district. This correspondingly delays, until FY 26, any costs a district would incur in order to comply with such laws.

**Section 6** makes an adjustment to certain first aid training that the State Department of Education is required to make available to local and regional school districts. This has no fiscal impact, as it is not expected to change the cost of any training.

**Section 7** has no fiscal impact. It prohibits districts from requiring parents to participate in school activities as a condition of enrolling their child.

**Section 8** requires community college campuses to establish collaborative partnerships with public high schools in their region. Any cost would depend on the provisions of such partnerships.

**Section 9** allows child care providers that are exempt from licensure to administer epinephrine, which has no fiscal impact.

**Section 10** requires the State Department of Education, in December of each fiscal year, to provide projections of Education Cost Sharing grants by town in the following fiscal year. This has no fiscal impact as the department has sufficient expertise to do so.

**Sections 11 and 12** have no fiscal impact. They make procedural changes regarding certain behavioral incidents and expulsion.

**Sections 13 and 14** have no fiscal impact. They make changes regarding appointees of two task forces concerning special education and civics education and engagement.

**Section 15** expands first aid training required of new school nurses. This results in a potential, minimal cost to local and regional school districts beginning in FY 25 for any costs associated with coverage for nurses taking the training.

**Section 16** has no fiscal impact. It changes deadlines by which local and regional school districts must report, and SDE must post online, certain financial information. This is not expected to change costs associated with any data collection or reporting requirements.

**Section 17** results in a potential cost to the State Department of Education (SDE). It requires SDE to make Excess Cost payments for qualified expenditures related to private special education providers that SDE has not approved at the time of service delivery (but approved at some point during the school year).

This potentially increases the cost of the Excess Cost grant, to the extent that these expenditures occur. Correspondingly, this results in a revenue gain in districts that incur these expenditures.

However, since the Excess Cost grant is capped within available appropriations, an increase in grant funding to one district correspondingly decreases grant funding to all other districts, given a constant appropriation level.

**Section 18** results in a potential cost to local and regional school districts beginning in FY 26. It requires school playgrounds designed on or after July 1, 2025 to conform to the principals of universal design. Any impact would depend on the extent to which universal design increases the cost associated with playground construction or equipment.

**Section 19** has no fiscal impact. It makes changes regarding appointments to the Reading Leadership Implementation Council and the terms of council members.

**Section 20** makes a technical change that has no fiscal impact.

Senate "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and results in the fiscal impact identified above.

### ***The Out Years***

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

*The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.*