

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-154

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOLS.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 4302

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OFA Fiscal Note

See Fiscal Note Details

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact.

The amendment makes a variety of changes to education. The fiscal impact of these changes is described by section below.

Section 1 results in a one-time cost of at least \$100,000 in FY 25 to the State Department of Education (SDE). 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 this work will require a consultant to complete.

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.

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(FN)

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.

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