



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 237** HLS 25RS 688
Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 25, 2025	4:28 PM	Author: MACK
Dept./Agy.: Education		
Subject: Safe learning environments		Analyst: Julie Silva

STUDENTS OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
Provides relative to the use of seclusion and physical restraint to address the behavior of students with exceptionalities

Proposed legislation: (1) updates guidelines concerning the use of physical restraint of students with exceptionalities, removing seclusion as an allowable method; (2) defines “crisis intervention” and authorizes LDOE to develop a “crisis intervention training program” focusing on the prevention of use of physical restraint on students, maintaining safety when physical restraint is being used, and conflict prevention and de-escalation techniques; (3) if a program is developed, requires certification and annual recertification in the practice and skills necessary for school employees to implement the crisis intervention training program; (3) requires each self-contained classroom or other setting in which a majority of students in regular attendance are provided special education services to have a camera; (4) adds a requirement that LDOE review each public school governing authority’s guidelines and procedures concerning physical restraint, by May 1st of each year; and (5) requires LDOE to create a publicly available database of all reports from school authorities concerning instances of physical restraint, updated quarterly.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION


Proposed legislation is anticipated to result in an increase in workload for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) due to expanded reporting requirements concerning instances of physical restraint occurring in school systems. Under current law, such reporting is completed annually; under proposed law, reporting would be required once each quarter. Additional changes require LDOE to annually review approximately 200 local education agency (LEA) policies on restraint and to provide feedback to LEAs on these policies.

LDOE reports this workload increase will necessitate the addition of four (4) authorized T.O. positions (\$564,784 total salaries and related benefits). These positions include one Budget Analyst 4 (\$113,070 salary and related benefits and \$15,843 operating expenses), who would be responsible for ensuring quarterly reporting expectations concerning instances of physical restraint are maintained, which involved data collection, desegregation, and management of the online database. The remaining three positions would each be classified as an Attorney 3 (\$129,447.30 salary and related benefits and \$15,843 operating expenses) and be responsible for the annual policy review of the estimated 200 LEA policies on restraint as well as the provision of feedback to LEAs concerning these policies. **The LFO cannot corroborate the increased workload predicted will necessitate four additional employees. To the extent the additional workload is less than anticipated, it may be absorbable, either wholly or partially, using existing staff and resources or may be achievable with fewer than four positions. Therefore, salary and benefits are not reflected in the expenditures in the boxes above.**

Continued on Page Two

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	 Patrice Thomas Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one: Page 2 of 2

There may be an increase in local fund expenditures as LEAs will be required to comply with increased reporting requirements and ensure that policy revisions occur based on feedback received from LDOE. Any increase associated with these requirements is indeterminable, will vary by school system, and is not anticipated to be significant. Additional expenditures at the local level may be realized **if** LDOE opts to implement a crisis intervention training program (see below). Assuming the department does so, local school systems may incur additional indirect costs to ensure all schools can provide training to all first year employees annually and that a select team of personnel is provided at least eight hours of training each year. These costs include those to hire substitute teachers or temporary employees when employees are absent for required training, or any overtime compensation required if employees participate in training outside of normal work hours.

Proposed legislation provides that LDOE **may** develop a crisis intervention training program and provides for the minimum requirements of such a program if the department opts to do so. LDOE provided that there is a “train the trainer” program available costing \$950 for initial certification and an additional \$495 to maintain that certification each year thereafter. This trainer would then be available to provide instruction to local school systems across the state. These costs are not included in the table on page one of this fiscal note, as proposed legislation does not mandate the creation of a crisis intervention training program and it is unknown when or if LDOE might institute one.

Changes to requirements concerning the placement of cameras in special education classrooms should not result in an increase in expenditures as the legislature appropriated \$8 M in one-time funding to LDOE in FY 23 due to Act 546 of the 2021 RS which required cameras to be placed in special education classrooms, when requested by a parent or legal guardian. At that time, the cost for installation of cameras in all special education classrooms statewide was estimated to total \$8 M (\$5,000 per classroom for 1,600 special education classrooms). As of December 2024, only \$2.2 M of this appropriation has been expended and 988 cameras have been installed statewide. The balance of \$6.2 M remains available for installation of cameras. *Note: Some classrooms, depending on size and configuration, require as many as 4 cameras.* Assuming the above estimates are still applicable, local school systems should already have the funding necessary to implement this requirement of proposed legislation.

For informational purposes, in the 2023-2024 school year, 101,056 students with disabilities had active IEPs. During the same time period, 44 school systems submitted incidents of seclusion and restraint. These submissions include 1,153 incidents of seclusion and restraint involving 389 students with disabilities across the state. In total, 0.37% of the total population of students with disabilities were reported as involved in incidents of seclusion and restraint.