LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 100** HLS 11RS 533
Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.: **w/ PROP HSE COMM AMD**
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 25, 2011 11:36 AM
Author: CARTER
Dept./Agy.: Education
Subject: School readiness assessments
Analyst: Alan M. Boxberger

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT EG +$50,701 GF EX See Note
Provides relative to school readiness assessment

Present law directs each city and parish school system to require that children entering kindergarten for the first time be given a nationally recognized readiness screening, that the results be used for placement and planning instruction (including integration in the system's pupil progression plan), and that the instrument include the capacity to measure a student's proficiency in vision and hearing. The proposed legislation changes the standard for the instrument used to a valid and reliable readiness assessment, deletes the provision relative to integration in the pupil progression plan, and deletes the requirement that a vision and hearing screening be part of the assessment for kindergarten. Proposed law requires implementation as funds are available and shall be fully implemented by the 2015-16 school year.

The language of current statute allows for several different assessments to be used statewide. Passage of this legislation would provide for one uniform assessment to measure kindergarten readiness.

EXPENDITURES	**2011-12**	**2012-13**	**2013-14**	**2014-15**	**2015-16**	**5 -YEAR TOTAL**
State Gen. Fd.	$50,701	$50,701	$50,701	$50,701	$0	**$202,804**
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	**$50,701**	**$50,701**	**$50,701**	**$50,701**	**$0**	**$202,804**

REVENUES	**2011-12**	**2012-13**	**2013-14**	**2014-15**	**2015-16**	**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

Passage of this legislation will result in a series of one-time expenditures to purchase an assessment instrument for each kindergarten class. The Department of Education states that an appropriate readiness assessment instrument is currently in use in some school systems, the Developing Skills Checklist (DSC). Of the 2,180 kindergarten classes in the state, 1,317 currently utilize the DSC. The Department anticipates that BESE will approve this instrument in the near future to be used as the statewide standard.

The estimated cost to purchase 863 test kits totals $405,610 (863 kits at $470 each). Training in test administration will be provided at no extra cost to the state or districts. The Department of Education reports its plan to implement the proposed legislation will include purchasing 50% of the necessary kits and collaborating with local school districts to share the kits between kindergarten classes and/or schools in order to stagger testing and reduce the need for a full complement of kits. This is likely to create hardship on the part of local school districts in attempting to schedule test administrations within requisite timelines. Currently, each kindergarten student is required to be assessed within 30 days of the start of school. These tests are administered individually and schools frequently stagger student start dates in order to facilitate assessments. Requiring schools to complete the assessments and share the test kits will complicate this process for those school districts that do not have a full complement of kits.

NOTE: If in the event that the Developing Skills Checklist should not be adopted by BESE and this legislation passes, the cost would change proportionate to the number of tests needed for statewide adoption (2,180 kindergarten classes) multiplied by the cost of an alternate instrument (indeterminate).

The proposed law allows implementation to occur over a four year period with full implementation occurring by the 2015-16 school year.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate Dual Referral Rules House

☐ 13.5.1 >= $100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}
☐ 13.5.2 >= $500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}
☐ 6.8(F)1 >= $500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S}
☐ 6.8(F)2 >= $100,000 Annual SGF Cost {H&S}
☐ 6.8(G) >= $500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Evan Brasseaux

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