

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE

Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 129** SLS 08RS 369
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 30, 2008	10:20 AM	Author: NEVERS
Dept./Agy.: Education		Analyst: Mary Kathryn Drago
Subject: Kindergarten		

STUDENTS OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Requires compulsory kindergarten attendance. (gov sig)

Present law requires every child to attend a full-day public or private kindergarten for a full school year as a prerequisite to enrollment in first grade in a public school or satisfactorily pass an academic readiness screening prior to first grade enrollment. Proposed law removes the academic readiness screening alternative, and provides that beginning with the 2009-2010 school year and thereafter, every child must have attended at least a full-day public or private kindergarten for a full school year as a prerequisite to enrollment in first grade in a public school.

EXPENDITURES	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Local Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

To the extent that additional students attend public school as a result of the requirement to attend a full day of kindergarten, on average State General Fund expenditures are estimated to increase by \$4,426 per student and local expenditures are estimated to increase by \$3,232 per student. The total increase is indeterminable, and will depend upon the actual number of students that would have taken and passed an academic readiness screening in lieu of attending kindergarten, and would choose to attend a public school.

State General Fund expenditure increases will result from an increase in the state share of Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funding provided for additional kindergarten students. The increase is calculated using the average 07-08 MFP Level 1, 2, and 3 state per pupil share of \$4,426. Local Fund expenditure increases are estimated using the average 07-08 MFP Level 1, 2, and 3 local per pupil share of \$3,232. Federal Fund expenditures may increase, but would depend on the federal programs and the targeted students.

On average from 2002 to 2007, the enrollment in kindergarten in one year has been approximately 2,000 less students than the enrollment in first grade the following year (excluding the year after the hurricanes). The Department of Education does not collect data on the number of students that satisfactorily pass an academic readiness screening prior to attending first grade. However, several school systems that were surveyed reported that very few students opt to take the screening in lieu of attending kindergarten. Therefore, the difference in enrollment could be related to other factors such as retention in the first grade.

For illustrative purposes, assuming only 10% of students actually take the academic readiness screening in lieu of attending kindergarten, based on the figures above only 200 students would be affected by the proposed legislation. If 200 students were required to attend a full day of kindergarten, the total increase in expenditures would be \$1,531,600. (\$4,426 state share * 200 = \$885,200, \$3,232 local share * 200 = \$646,400) (\$885,200 + \$646,400). If 1,000 students were affected, the total increase in expenditures would be \$7.7 million.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate Dual Referral Rules

13.5.1 >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change

House

6.8(F) >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease

H. Gordon Monk

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Legislative Fiscal Officer