

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 198

**PRINTER'S NO.** 3630

**AMOUNT**

\$122,000 - \$172,000 Annually

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

June 4, 2013

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Neilson

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 198 establishes a new Article XVII-C (Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program) in the Public School Code to provide for a Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program.

The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a three-year pilot program in three school districts to provide evidence based screening, support and intervention services for children with potential dyslexia risk factors. To be considered for the pilot program, a school district must enroll between 3,000 and 15,000 students, provide full-day kindergarten and submit a proposal to the department that identifies the use of evidence based reading programs, methods of screening, intervention programs, and evaluations.

Requires the participating school districts to provide parental notification when a child is suspected of having dyslexia. Requires the school district obtain parental consent for a child to receive the interventions provided under the program and provide the parents with information about dyslexia and interventions. Provides that participation in the pilot program does not preclude a parent from requesting an evaluation for special education.

Requires the department to consult with dyslexia experts in establishing, operating and evaluating the pilot program. Requires the department to contract with a nationally recognized organization to provide an evaluation of the pilot program and review its effectiveness. Provides for the department to establish guidelines for the program, apply for Federal, private and other non-state funds and use available state funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the department.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

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### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

It is estimated that the enactment of House Bill 198 will cost the Department of Education \$122,000 annually for salary, benefit and operational costs related to administration of the pilot program for the three to four years needed to complete the program's operations. In addition, it is estimated that there will be a one-time cost of \$50,000 for the department to contract with a nationally recognized organization to provide an evaluation of the pilot program and review its effectiveness.