

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 776

PRINTER NO. 1442

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact
\$470,000

FUND

General Fund
Federal Funds

DATE INTRODUCED

June 16, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Tomlinson

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 776 amends Article XVII-C (Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program) of the Public School Code to extend the Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program for two (2) additional years and reflect that eight (8) schools currently participate in the program and would continue to participate in the extension of the program.

The Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program was established in Act 60 of 2014 and is designed to bring evidence-based intervention services to students with potential risk factors for early reading deficiencies and dyslexia, such as low phonemic awareness, low letter and symbol naming and inability to remember sequences.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

To date, the Department of Education estimates that it has spent approximately \$10 million from Federal IDEA funds to support the Dyslexia Pilot Program. Costs for the pilot program in its first three years have been primarily driven by technical assistance provided as both intensive professional development and in-classroom supports. Because the extension of the pilot program is limited to just two additional years with the existing eight pilot schools, the Department believes the remaining costs will be limited to ongoing data collection activities and should not exceed \$470,000. Additionally, the Department has indicated funding from its share of IDEA funds will be sufficient to cover the additional costs for the pilot program.