

Senate

General Assembly

File No. 495

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1467

Senate, April 3, 2025

The Committee on Government Oversight reported through SEN. GADKAR-WILCOX of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING A REVIEW OF THE COSTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY ALL PROVIDERS IN THIS STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Education 2 shall conduct a comprehensive review of the rates of tuition charged by 3 all providers of special education services to local or regional boards of 4 education in the state, including, but not limited to, regional educational 5 service centers and approved private providers of special education services, as defined in section 10-91g of the general statutes. As part of 6 7 such review, the commissioner shall solicit comments from local and 8 regional boards of education in the state concerning what rates such 9 boards are paying for such services. Such review shall include an 10 examination of (1) how rates are determined and the reasons for any 11 rapid increases in such rates, (2) what oversight exists for the setting of 12 such rates, including whether any limitations exist upon increases of 13 such rates during the school year, (3) whether variances exist in the rates

charged to boards of education and the reasons for such variances, (4) 14 15 whether there is any oversight of the governance structure of such 16 providers and what criteria the department uses to qualify a provider 17 as an approved provider, (5) criteria used to approve providers of 18 regional programs for both nonprofit and private for-profit placements, 19 (6) a comparison of the rates charged for services provided based upon 20 diagnosis of the recipient of such services in the individualized 21 education plan, (7) whether the rates charged result in a lack of equity 22 in the services provided across municipalities, and (8) the feasibility of 23 implementing a fee-for-service model where a bundle of services are 24 provided based upon the diagnosis of the recipient of such services.

(b) Not later than February 15, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government oversight and education summarizing the findings of such review and any recommendations for legislation to address increases in such rates and how to increase government oversight of such rates.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	from passage	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "private special education providers" was changed to "private providers of special education services, as defined in section 10-91g of the general statutes", for accuracy.

GOS Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	Up to 100,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a one-time cost of \$100,000 in FY 26 to the State Department of Education (SDE). It requires SDE to conduct a comprehensive review of special education provider tuition rates and numerous related topics. SDE must report its findings by February 15, 2026. Given the scope and timeframe of the review, it is anticipated that SDE could incur costs of up to \$100,00 to hire a consultant to assist with the review.

The Out Years

Due to the bill's review deadline, there is no fiscal impact in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1467

AN ACT REQUIRING A REVIEW OF THE COSTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY ALL PROVIDERS IN THIS STATE.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/18/2025)