OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7076
AN ACT PROVIDING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Department of Developmental Services	GF - Cost	None	See Below
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	None	See Below
Judicial Department	GF - Potential Savings	None	See Below
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	None	Less than 200,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill relieves various mandates that result in a fiscal impact including: (1) making considerations for kindergarten early admittance optional; (2) ending a student's eligibility for special education on the day they turn 22, rather than at the end of the year in which they turn 22; and (3) delaying when districts must meet racial imbalance requirements. These changes result in potential savings to the Department of Correction, Judicial Department, and the Department of Children and Families as well as local and regional school districts, as described below.

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Reviewer: JS

Section 1 results in a potential savings to local and regional school districts starting in FY 27. The section makes it optional, rather than required, for districts to consider admitting students to kindergarten who turn five after September 1. The savings is dependent on whether districts choose to opt out and the number of children who otherwise would have been admitted.

Sections 2 – 8 end a student's eligibility for special education on the day they turn 22, rather than at the end of the year in which they turn 22. This results in potential savings to local and regional districts, the Department of Correction (Unified School District #1), and the Judicial Department beginning in FY 27. The savings may be significant for some districts depending on the number of students who turn 22 during the school year and the cost of their services.

In section 2, redefining "child" for special education purposes will result in a potential savings for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), beginning in FY 27. The agency will no longer be mandated to pay for special education costs of DCF-placed students over age 22 that lack a legal nexus to a local education authority. Actual savings in any given fiscal year would depend on (1) the number of such students; (2) the number of school days from each student's 22nd birthday until the termination of placement or the end of the school year, whichever occurs first; and (3) the applicable per diem special education rate.[1] These savings would be mitigated should the agency continue to support these costs on a discretionary basis.

Section 3 results in a cost to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) beginning in FY 27 related to ending a student's eligibility for special education services in the school system upon the date of their 22nd birthday as opposed to the end of the school year in which their 22nd birthday falls. The total cost will be dependent upon the number of children who age out of special education in their school district and transition to adult services within DDS before the end of the

[1] Fiscal year-to-date, DCF has incurred costs of $54,600 associated with one no-nexus student over age 22.

school year. The number of children and duration of services are not known at this time.

Sections 9 – 11 delay potential costs incurred by certain local and regional school districts. The sections delay, until July 1, 2029, any action that the State Board of Education (SBE) or a local or regional school district are required to take when SBE has found that racial imbalance exists in such district. This correspondingly delays, until FY 30, any costs a district would incur in order to comply with such laws.

Section 12 repeals the requirement for districts to report certain information to the Commission for Educational Technology and does not have a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.