

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-138

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 27 \$ | FY 28 \$ |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Various Local and Regional School Districts | See Below | See Below | See Below |

Explanation

The bill makes various changes to education statutes, resulting in the fiscal impacts described below by section.

Section 1 aligns the charter school approval process with the biennial budget process, in FY 28. This allows greater coordination between the State Board of Education (SBE) charter school approval process and the biennial state budget.

Section 2 requires a receiving magnet school to pay for costs related to 504 student plans, rather than the sending district, beginning in FY 27. This results in a potential cost to boards of education and regional educational service centers (RESCs) that operate magnet schools, and a corresponding potential savings to sending districts. Most 504 student plans involve no-cost classroom accommodations (e.g., extra time on exams, sitting in a certain location in the classroom, etc.). There may be costs for students who require medical or technology supports under their 504 plan.

Primary Analyst: CF
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Reviewer: JS

4/5/26

Section 3 changes, beginning in FY 27, the payment schedule for the Sheff magnet transportation grant to CREC, a RESC. The bill requires that the October 31 payment to be a reimbursement for all costs incurred before that date, rather than one half of the total estimated transportation costs for the school year. This results in CREC receiving a lower payment amount at the October 31 payment, but it does not change the total grant received for the fiscal year.

Sections 4 - 8 and 10 repeal various reporting requirements for the State Department of Education (SDE), resulting in no fiscal impact as it is expected any time that would have been spent on the reports will be used to meet current reporting requirements.

Section 9 requires, when feasible, that the budget plan for a proposed regional school district be reviewed by an independent third party to determine viability. This results in a potential cost to towns considering regionalizing associated with the third party review. The cost is dependent on a regional school committee being formed and any fees charged by the reviewer.

The Out Years

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