

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-138

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 4643)

Senate Calendar No.: 305

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, beginning 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 changes, beginning in FY 26, the payment schedule for the Sheff magnet transportation grant to CREC, a Regional Educational Service Center (RESC). The bill requires that the October 31 payment be for up to one half of the total estimated transportation costs for the school year. This results in CREC potentially receiving a lower payment amount at the October 31 payment, but it does not change the total grant received for the fiscal year.

Sections 3 - 6 repeal various reporting requirements for the State

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5/1/26

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 7 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.

Senate "A" alters the original bill by: (1) removing the requirement for receiving magnet school to pay for costs related to 504 student plans, rather than the sending district, which eliminates a potential cost to magnet school operators and a potential corresponding savings to sending districts; and (2) changing the payment schedule for the Sheff magnet transportation grant to CREC. The amendment also removes sections 7 and 10 of the original bill, which have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.