

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6103

BILL NUMBER: HB 1853

DATE PREPARED: Nov 2, 2000

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Elective study of the Bible in public high schools.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (1) This bill provides that a school corporation may include in its curriculum as an elective a study of world literature, including the Bible and other similar great works of literature.

(2) It requires the Indiana State Board of Education and the Professional Standards Board to jointly develop and report to the Legislative Council by January 1, 2002, a plan to implement the "Academic Study of Religion in Secondary Schools", which was implemented in Indiana in 1978, 1979, and 1980.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (1) Currently, Biblical Literature is offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. In addition, World Literature is also offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the same curriculum area.

Since the Department of Education already provides curriculum assistance for courses contained within English/Language Arts (including World and Biblical Literature), there would be no additional cost to the State regarding this portion of the bill.

(2) The Department of Education and the Professional Standards Board would likely experience a minimal increase in administrative costs associated with the provisions of this bill. These figures are currently indeterminable and dependent upon implementation.

However, the funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: 1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; 2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; 3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; or 4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted.

Based on the 07/09/00 state manning table, the Department of Education has 375 authorized positions of which approximately 75 are currently vacant, and the Professional Standards Board has 34 authorized positions of which six are currently vacant.

Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill would depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (1) This bill would allow school corporations to offer elective high school instruction regarding World Literature including the Bible. Currently, school corporations are already allowed to offer World and Biblical Literature electives via the curriculum area of Language/Arts. It is not likely that the provisions of this bill would result in additional administrative time or cost to school corporations.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education, Professional Standards Board.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Mary Fortney, Department of Education, (317) 232-9158; State manning table (07/09/00).