

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

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7744

BILL NUMBER: HB 2132

DATE PREPARED: Jan 3, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Government study requirement for graduation.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a student, beginning with the class that expects to graduate during the 2003-2004 school year, to complete at least two semesters of studies in government to receive a high school diploma. It provides that the government studies must include one semester that emphasizes state and local government and civics.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: It is possible that the Department of Education could experience minimal first-year expenses due to one or more of the following: 1) the listing of non-commercial resources on the Department of Education's web site; 2) the development and printing of curriculum resource guides; 3) in-service training; and 4) regional workshops.

The Department reports that in addition to the possible first-year costs mentioned above, it could incur various costs associated with the continued professional development of teachers involved in Studies in Government. However, since elective courses in Citizenship and Civics as well as State and Local Government are already taught as electives, it is not likely that costs would be similar to those associated with courses not currently provided at all.

Background:

Currently, the Department of Education creates curriculum proficiency guides focused on standards to achieve student learning and curriculum development at the school corporation level. The process of curriculum proficiency guide development involves the following groups of individuals: 1) teachers; 2) parents; 3) students; 4) higher education faculty; and 5) business and community leaders. Curriculum proficiency guides are revised in conjunction with a six-year textbook adoption cycle.

In addition, the Department of Education provides regional workshops regarding curriculum, instruction, and assessment for the following individuals: 1) teachers; 2) curriculum developers; and 3) administrators. These workshops are designed to provide information to school corporation personnel regarding the goals and skills essential to successful student learning.

The Department of Education also currently provides assistance to school corporations regarding appropriate instructional material concerning a school corporation's curriculum by listing non-commercial resources on the Department of Education's web site.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill would require school corporations beginning with the 2003-2004 school year to integrate Studies in Government within the required curriculum necessary to obtain a high school diploma. School corporations would likely incur additional administrative expenses associated with the research of non-commercial resources, teacher travel to regional workshops, and final development and implementation of the required curriculum.

Since Citizenship and Civics as well as State and Local Government are already offered as electives, the above costs could be mitigated dependant upon local action.

Substitute Teacher Costs: School corporations may also incur the cost of providing substitute teachers on those days when teachers assist the Department with curriculum guide development via Department advisory group meetings. In addition, school corporations would need to provide substitute teachers on those days when teachers attend regional workshops conducted by the Department.

The specific impact of substitute teacher costs would depend upon local action and would vary by school corporation. Under the provisions of this bill, teachers would not be required to participate in advisory group meetings, nor would they be required to attend regional workshops.

The statewide average reimbursement for a substitute teacher is approximately \$65 per day. Substitute teacher pay is provided from a school corporation's General Fund and can sometimes be reimbursed by the Department.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Dorothy Winchester, Department of Education, (317) 232-9170.