

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

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7387

BILL NUMBER: HB 1234

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 18, 2004

BILL AMENDED: Feb 17, 2004

SUBJECT: Early Learning Trust Fund.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bauer

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Kenley

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 2nd House

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes a Study Commission to develop information needed by the Department of Education to implement optional full day kindergarten and other early learning programs. The bill sets forth topics for the Commission to consider. The bill also requires the Commission to make its report before December 1, 2004.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill establishes a 12-member Study Commission consisting of 8 legislators, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Governor, a public school superintendent, and a school business official. The Commission is to operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees ranging from \$6,000 to \$9,000 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members.

The Department of Education is to provide staff, information, and assistance to the commission. The Department of Education had 68 vacant positions on January 5, 2004 budgeted at \$1,984,138 and reverted \$33,749,333 for FY 2003.

The Commission is to study Full Day Kindergarten and Early Learning Programs and report to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2004. The study must include:

1. The development of a sustainable long range funding plan for full day kindergarten and early learning programs that does not jeopardize existing classroom funding levels or the state's commitment to teachers' pensions.
2. The identification and determination of the full costs of specific early learning programs that would most benefit children.
3. A determination of the full costs of full day kindergarten.
4. A determination of whether a parent should be required to pay part of the cost of participation in full day kindergarten.

5. A determination of whether there is adequate classroom space to implement full day kindergarten and, if there is not adequate classroom space, the cost and lead time necessary to add additional space.
6. A determination of the impact of full day kindergarten programs on property taxes.
7. The identification of funding shortfalls that currently exist in existing kindergarten through grade 12 programs.
8. A determination of whether the department of education or another agency is best able to develop the components of full day kindergarten and early learning programs.
9. A consideration of major components that should be included in full day kindergarten and early learning programs.
10. A review of public funding currently dedicated to full day kindergarten, early learning programs, child development programs, and child care programs to identify potential funding efficiencies and to ensure there is no duplication or overlap in programming or funding.
11. The establishment of a time line for implementing full day kindergarten and early learning programs on a statewide basis.
12. An exploration of other obstacles or opportunities that exist with respect to the implementation of full day kindergarten and early learning programs.
13. Consideration of a plan to be implemented in conjunction with full day kindergarten to encourage parental involvement in long term student achievement.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education, Legislative Services Agency.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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