

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6828

BILL NUMBER: SB 191

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 20, 2004

BILL AMENDED: Jan 15, 2004

SUBJECT: Graduation Rate Determination.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lubbers

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill specifies certain additional groups of students who are not included in determining a school's graduation rate.

Effective Date: July 1, 2004.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Summary:* The State Attendance Officer (SAO) would be required to attempt to find a student that has not been located by the student's last attended school. If found, the SAO would be required to report the student's whereabouts and new school to the student's previous attended school. The Department of Education's resources should be sufficient to carry out this provision.

Background: As of December 3, 2003, the Department had 260 full-time staff members. The Department has approximately 278 budgeted full-time positions. The Department reverted \$33.7 M in FY 2003.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) Under the bill, school corporations could require additional administrative time to track missing students. School corporations would have to track students that transfer from out of state during the school year.

Under current law, the Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children (the clearinghouse) under the Indiana State Police must distribute a quarterly report to schools of missing children.

School corporations with missing students would need to note any missing students from the clearinghouse report. School corporations would then need to forward that information to the Department of Education for

the calculation of the graduation rate.

In the case of a student that cannot be tracked under the provisions of the bill and current law, schools would require minimal expenditure to send a certified letter to the last known address of the student. If the letter fails to locate the student or goes unanswered, the principal of the school would be allowed to submit the student's information (including last known address) to the State Attendance Officer.

Background: The cost to send a certified standard business letter of one ounce weight or less is \$0.37 for first class postage, \$2.30 to send certified, and \$1.75 for a return receipt.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: United States Postal Service.

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