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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6803**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1288

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 22, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 8, 2007

**SUBJECT:** School Attendance Officers.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Harris E

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) The bill requires school corporations to include information on their truancy rates in their annual performance reports.

The bill provides that beginning with the 2008-2009 school year: (1) the Department of Education shall rank all school corporations according to their truancy rates; and (2) each school that has an enrollment of at least 500 students within a school corporation ranked among the 25% of all school corporations having the highest truancy rates shall appoint an attendance officer.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Department of Education reports that the state currently collects data from schools for unexcused absences. The Department's current level of resources would be sufficient to process and rank school truancy rates.

*Background:* The Department of Education had 294 full-time, 1 part-time, 16 intermittent, and 7 employees on leave on October 5, 2006. The Department reverted \$3.3 M to the state General Fund at the close of FY 2006.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) Including truancy rates should minimally impact school expenditures when publishing annual reports.

The impact of requiring attendance officers at school corporations exhibiting the highest truancy rates and an enrollment of at least 500 students should be minimal. Each attendance district has an attendance officer or the school superintendent serves as the attendance officer ex officio.

*Background-* Under current law, attendance officers are appointed by an attendance district. A school corporation with an average daily attendance (ADA) of 1,500 students constitutes a separate attendance district. Completely organized school corporations, within a county, with a 1,500 ADA must appoint an attendance officer. Under certain conditions, a school corporation may appoint more than one attendance officer. Attendance officers' salaries and expenses are paid by the county auditor from appropriation of the county council. There were about 184 school corporations with an average daily membership (ADM) of 1,500 or more during school year 2005-2006. As of the 2002-2003 school year (the final year an ADA count was taken), about 177 school corporations had an ADA of 1,500 or more.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** State of Indiana *HRM Detail Staffing Report 09/05/2006*; State Budget Agency: *FY 2006 Close-Out General Fund Reversion Summary*; DOE SAS AND ORACLE DATABASES; Gaylon Nettles, Department of Education.

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