

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6754**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 224**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 20, 2009  
**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 19, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Virtual Education.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lubbers  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

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

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) The bill defines "virtual school". The bill sets forth requirements for virtual schools established by school corporations or charter schools.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The bill clarifies that virtual schools established by charter schools must meet instructional-day requirements of at least 180 days per year. (Current law does not allow virtual charter schools to be established during the 2007-2009 biennium.) The provision should have no fiscal impact.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) The requirement that virtual schools meet at least 180 days should have no fiscal impact.

**Background:** The state of Florida offers virtual classes to students. The cost is free to in-state students and \$375 per semester per half-credit course for out-of-state students. Advance placement courses have an additional \$25 fee per semester. For the 2008 school year, Indiana's average expenditure per student, assuming a 6-hour course day, was about \$480 per hour each semester.

A virtual school is defined as a school that provides more than 50% of its instruction through virtual distance learning, online technology, or computer-based instruction.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

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

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local schools.

**Information Sources:** Florida Virtual Schools, <http://www.flvsgs.net>

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