

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6754

BILL NUMBER: SB 224

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 24, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Feb 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Virtual Education.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lubbers

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Porter

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

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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