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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6295

BILL NUMBER: SB 126

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 2, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Mandatory Half-day Kindergarten Enrollment.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Tallian

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, requires a student to enroll in a kindergarten program that is at least a half-day program not later than the fall term of the school year in which the student becomes six years of age.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would require mandatory half-day kindergarten for students. Currently, kindergarten has to be offered by schools, but parents can choose to enroll their children or not. During the 2010 school year, there were 78,174 students attending public school kindergarten. In the 2011 school year, there were 81,380 students attending 1st grade in public school, a difference of 3,206 students. The number of students attending public kindergarten has increased over the last 20 years. In 1989, there were 71,210 students attending kindergarten and 80,882 students attending 1st grade the following year, an increase of 9,672 students.

The impact on the state would depend on the increase in the public school enrollments and the school formula in effect at that time. The current school formula is repealed on January 1, 2014. The impact on the 2012 school formula from increasing the kindergarten enrollment by 3,206 students would increase the school formula distribution to local schools by \$16.2 M. Any future impact would also depend on if the amount to be distributed exceeds the maximum state tuition support distribution during the calendar year.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Schools could have some additional costs associated with providing

services to about 3,200 more students. Kindergarten is a half-day program, so the costs would be less than for other grades. The additional cost would depend on the number of teachers and facilities that might be required.

Explanation of Local Revenues: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Local schools.

Information Sources: Department of Education databases.

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