

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

**LS 6385**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 179

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 26, 2012

**BILL AMENDED:** Jan 26, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Virtual Instruction Course Requirement.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Banks

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

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

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

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires a student pursuing a Core 40 high school diploma to complete one virtual instruction course

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) If a student takes a virtual instruction course that is either a dual enrollment or dual credit course at a state educational institution, the student cannot be counted for any component of the higher education funding formula.

If a school corporation offers a virtual instruction course, the course must be funded through the school corporation's resources and is not entitled to any additional funding because the school corporation provides the virtual instructional course.

The provisions should assure that the virtual instruction course requirement has no state fiscal impact.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The bill would require students who enter Grade 9 beginning with the 2013 school year to have at least one course or credit requirement towards a Core 40 diploma through a virtual instruction course. Schools would be required to offer at least three virtual instruction courses from which the student could choose to enroll.

The school would not be able to charge the student for the virtual instruction courses the school provides.

There were about 84,000 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2011 school year and about 83,700 in the 2010 school year. The 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2013 school year would have four years to take one virtual instruction course.

The impact on the local school would be the difference between the cost of offering the course using teachers at the school and the cost of offering the course virtually. The cost of a virtual class is about \$800 per year, and the average tuition support per student per course is about \$923, assuming a six-period day and tuition support of \$5,541 per student.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local schools.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education, Florida Virtual Schools,  
<http://www.flvs.net/areas/aboutus/Pages/default.aspx>

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