

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 775** HLS 10RS 1594  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 13, 2010	8:58 AM	<b>Author:</b> SIMON, SCOTT
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Corrections		<b>Analyst:</b> Matthew LaBruyere
<b>Subject:</b> GED Program		

PUBLIC SFTY/CORRECT DEPT                      EG SEE FISC NOTE GF EX See Note                      Page 1 of 1  
 Provides with respect to a GED program for incarcerated offenders

The proposed legislation requires the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to establish a program for offenders who are in the custody of the department to prepare for and take the General Education Development (GED) test. The program shall be designed to provide efficient and effective assistance to those offenders who have not graduated from high school or previously passed the GED test and who possess the educational ability and intellectual capacity to complete the courses necessary to successfully complete the program and pass the GED test.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW					
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

  

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

The proposed legislation may result in an increase in state general fund expenditures. Currently, the Department of Corrections provides offenders lacking a high school diploma or GED, the available programs to help him/her pass the GED in all 12 state facilities. For FY 09, 39 teachers in 12 state facilities taught over 4,500 offenders, with 856 offenders completing the program. Offenders interested in participating in educational programs must apply for enrollment. Offenders within three years of their work release eligibility date are given first priority for enrollment.

Prior to enrollment in a program, each offender is screened and assessed using the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) to ensure the offender is placed in the appropriate program. Educational programs allow for flexible scheduling so the offender can enter the program at any time and proceed at his/her own pace. All of the educational programs apply a written, standardized competency based curriculum with the appropriate materials and classroom resources. Once enrolled in an ABE/GED program, offenders are tested quarterly to measure academic progress.

To the extent that the proposed legislation includes state offenders housed in local prisons, there would be an increase in state general fund expenditures. The LFO does not interpret this language to require the extension of this program to local prisons. Most offenders housed in local facilities do not have access to educational programs, thus additional teachers would be needed to educate offenders in local facilities. The number of additional teachers needed is indeterminable, however any increase in teachers would result in an increase in state general fund expenditures. There are almost 20,000 offenders housed in local facilities around the state with varying state offender populations. The disparity in numbers of offenders at each local facility presents logistical difficulties in estimating the number of teachers necessary to provide sufficient instruction while minimizing excess teaching capacity due to likely negligible numbers of participating offenders at certain facilities.

The same problem is realized when determining the number of additional GED tests to be given each year. It would depend on how many offenders enrolled and prepared to take the GED. Any increase in GEDs in a given in year will lead to an increase in state general fund expenditures.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate                      Dual Referral Rules

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change

House

6.8(F) >= \$100,000 Annual SGF Cost

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease

*Robert E. Hosse*  
**Robert E. Hosse**  
**LFO Staff Director**