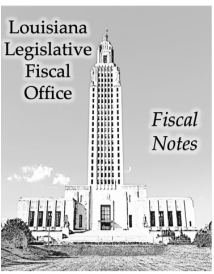


LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 416** SLS 24RS 564
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 3, 2024	5:58 PM	Author: BOUIE
Dept./Agy.: EDUCATION		
Subject: School Bus Disciplinarians		Analyst: Julie Silva

SCHOOLS OR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to a disciplinarian or other school administrator to ride on a school bus transporting students to and from school. (gov sig)
 Proposed legislation requires any city, parish, or other local school board providing free transportation on a school bus to provide a disciplinarian or other school administrator to ride on each bus transporting students to and from school.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There will be a significant direct material effect on local governmental expenditures as a result of this measure. Proposed legislation would require all local school boards to provide either a disciplinarian or other school administrator to ride on each school bus, for each trip providing transportation for students to and from school. There are an estimated 7,500 school buses in operation at public schools statewide. A sample of local school boards were contacted to determine the extent to which, if at all, they may currently be in compliance with proposed legislation. While some school boards report having employees on staff for this purpose, they would not be able to ensure such a person is present on each bus, for each bus route, to and from school, each day. Responses also indicate that for those school boards who do have bus aides on staff, they would cover only 20% of the buses in operation within their district each day. One reported they would need to hire an additional 30 to 40 administrators to meet the requirements of proposed legislation. A different board provided they only have additional riders on two special needs bus routes, and these riders are neither administrators nor disciplinarians.

In addition to the lack of available employees, a lack of available funding was a commonly raised concern. Overtime pay would be required for nonexempt employees and all respondents stated compliance with proposed legislation would be cost prohibitive and they would be unable to meet the proposed requirements within current budget constraints. While the LFO is unable to corroborate this would be the case for all city, parish, and local school boards, it is likely most would be impacted similarly.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) provided that while the department will not incur any expenditures as a result of the proposed legislation, local school districts would. For reference, HR 146 of the 2022 Regular Session required LDOE to study the feasibility and effectiveness of installing seat belts on school buses. The report suggested that aides should be hired to assist with school bus evacuations in the event of an emergency and to ensure that occupants are using restraints properly. At that time, the estimated annual cost per aide ranged from approximately \$17,000 to \$35,000. Additional costs associated with retirement benefits and medical insurance for these employees would also be incurred. Training for school bus aides would be an additional indeterminable cost for school systems. Since there will be variation in the number of school buses per system, job types, and rate of pay for school personnel, LDOE reports the specific cost for each school system is indeterminable.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer