



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 222** HLS 22RS 504
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 2, 2022	5:42 PM	Author: MARCELLE
Dept./Agy.: Education		Analyst: Garrett Ordner
Subject: Discipline Policy		

STUDENT/DISCIPLINE OR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to out-of-school suspensions and expulsions of public school students

Proposed legislation provides that a student in grades pre-K through eight may be suspended only for acting in a way that is intended to cause significant bodily harm or emotional distress to another person. Requires, prior to any out-of-school suspension, assignment to alternative placement, or expulsion, that the student be assessed using an instrument approved by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) that is designed to determine if the student has experienced trauma. Requires that the results be used to determine whether the student's behavior may be better addressed in another manner. Repeals requirements for automatic expulsion of students under 16 years of age in cases of firearm or drug possession. Present law prohibits suspension of students in grades pre-K through five for uniform violations. Proposed legislation makes the prohibition applicable to all students.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	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	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	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

The proposed legislation may result in additional costs for local school districts to administer the required screener; however, these costs are indeterminable. The LDH will ultimately be responsible for selecting a screener to be used and there are several Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) assessment tools available at no cost. Freely available screeners include the pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener (PEARLS) created by the Center for Youth Wellness and the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine. Districts may experience increased workload for staff training to administer the assessments.

To the extent students considered for out-of-school suspension, assignment to alternative placement, or expulsion are not currently evaluated for trauma, districts may experience increased costs associated with staff training, as well as increased workload to administer. The legislation does not specify school personnel authorized to administer the assessment, but would likely involve staff with mental health experience such as school counselors, psychologists, or social workers.

According to Department of Education data, in the 2018-19 school year there were 58,500 students were disciplined through out-of-school suspension and more than 5,400 students were disciplined through in- or out-of-school expulsion. Due to variations in out-of-school suspension, assignment to alternative placement, and expulsion rates among districts, the need for additional staff will vary, as not all districts will be able to absorb this workload adjustment and may require additional staff. Experts recommend that staff receive training prior to administering an ACE assessment. Act 353 of the 2021 R.S. requires one hour of ACE training for faculty and staff each year; however, more training may be necessary to administer an assessment.

Districts may also need to reformulate disciplinary policies and develop trauma-informed treatment plans for students identified with ACEs. There may be additional costs to the extent new policies prompt alternative behavioral interventions.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}	House <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	
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