



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

Fiscal Note On: **SB 256** SLS 22RS 422  
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.: **w/ PROP HSE COMM AMD**  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 17, 2022	4:10 PM	<b>Author:</b> BARROW
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Education		
<b>Subject:</b> Assessments of Student Prior to Suspension		<b>Analyst:</b> Garrett Ordner

SCHOOLS RE SEE FISC NOTE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Requires certain assessments of a student prior to suspension from school. (gov sig)

Proposed law requires public school principals, prior to suspending a student out-of-school for a period of greater than three days, expelling a student, or assigning a student to alternative placement, to ensure the student is assessed by an instrument approved by the Department of Health (LDH) that is designed to determine whether he or she has experienced trauma. The results of this assessment shall be considered in determining whether the student's behavior may be addressed through alternative means other than suspension. Effective upon governor's signature.

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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<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 additional costs for local school districts to administer the required screener; however, these costs are indeterminable. The Department of Health (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 suspension 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, 9,194 students were disciplined through out-of-school suspension for a period of greater than three days, and more than 5,400 students were disciplined through in- or out-of-school expulsion in the 2018 -19 school year. Due to variations in out-of-school suspension 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      Dual Referral Rules  
 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}

*Evan Brasseaux*  
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**Evan Brasseaux**  
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer