

## Department of Planning and Budget 2002 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** HB1136

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. **Patron** Dillard

3. **Committee** Education

4. **Title** Standards of Quality; certain elementary school personnel.

5. **Summary/Purpose:** This bill amends the Standards of Quality to require, within the Standards of Accreditation, guidance counselors in elementary schools at the following staffing levels: one hour per day per 100 students, one full-time at 500 students, and one hour per day additional time per 100 students or a major fraction thereof. In addition, elementary schools must employ one full-time reading specialist; currently, these positions are filled "at the discretion of the local school board."

6. **Fiscal Impact:** (See 8.)

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** Yes .Item 147.

8. **Fiscal implications:** This bill amends Standard 3 of the Standards of Quality regarding minimum staffing requirements. Guidance counselors would be required in elementary schools according to the following standards: (1) one hour per day per 100 students; (2) one full-time at 500 students; and (3) one hour per day additional time per 100 students or a major fraction thereof. The bill would also require one full-time reading specialist in an elementary school. (Previously, reading specialists could be included at the discretion of the local school board.) The provision of this bill regarding guidance counselors serves to codify requirements that are already outlined in the Board of Education's Standards of Accreditation. The current staffing standard for elementary schools requires guidance counselors or reading specialists (not both as the proposed legislation requires). Therefore, there is no state fiscal impact regarding the guidance counselor requirement.

Since reading specialists would now be mandated in elementary schools, the state would be required to fund its share of the cost of adding one full-time specialist to each elementary school. The total estimated cost in fiscal year 2003 is \$52.0 million, with the state share estimated at \$29.4 million. The total estimated cost in fiscal year 2004 is \$52.2 million, with the state share estimated at \$29.6 million.

The costs were derived by extracting the total number of elementary schools by division from September 30, 2001 fall membership, multiplying this number by an average salary and benefit figure, and adjusting for the composite index to estimate the state and local share.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department of Education, school divisions

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** No.

11. Othercomments:None.

**Date:** 2/01/02/acd

**Document:**H: \BOS\K12Legislation \2002Session \CompletedBills \HB1136.doc.

cc:SecretaryofEducation

SecretaryofFinance