Department of Planning and Budget 2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

L.	Bill Numbe	r HB1658
	House of Orig	gin 🛮 Introduced 🔲 Substitute 🔲 Engrossed
	Second House	e In Committee Substitute Enrolled
2.	Patron	Lingamfelter
3.	Committee	Education
1.	Title	Pupil transportation.

- **5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill authorizes, but does not require, school boards to provide transportation to pupils residing in the relevant school division to any kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school in which the pupil is lawfully enrolled. However, the schools cannot be operated for profit, and, if located outside the relevant school division, must be at a distance not exceeding 10 miles by the nearest public thoroughfare.
- 6. Fiscal Impact (See #8.)
- 7. Budget amendment necessary: No.
- 8. **Fiscal implications:** This bill has no fiscal impact on the current biennium. However, it may have an impact on future biennia.

To the extent that public school divisions transport nonpublic students under this provision, the nonpublic student transportation cost would need to be tracked separately by localities to avoid having the nonpublic costs drive up prevailing transportation costs that are funded through the Standards of Quality (SOQ). State SOQ funding for transportation is based on the statewide prevailing cost of public special education and regular students. School divisions are required to submit an annual transportation report to the Department of Education that provides the source data for SOQ funding calculations. This report would have to be amended to ensure that the additional riders and costs for the nonpublic students are not included as part of the regular transportation cost driving prevailing SOQ funding. If the costs of transporting nonpublic school students were not separated out, this bill would have an undetermined impact on prevailing SOQ transportation funding in future biennia. Local school divisions may have an additional administrative burden to track the riders and cost of the nonpublic students separately from public school students.

- **9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** School divisions, Department of Education.
- **10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.
- 11. Other comments: This bill is similar to HB1589.

Date: 01/18/05 / acd

cc: Secretary of Education