

## Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1364-S1

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

**2. Patron:** Miller

**3. Committee:** Education

**4. Title:** Waivers from third grade Standards of Learning assessments.

**5. Summary:** Requires the Board of Education to grant a two-year waiver from the science and the history and social science Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment requirement for third grade students in certain schools as selected by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Elementary schools receiving a waiver must (i) develop a system to monitor the academic progress of all third grade students in the subject areas in which the assessment waiver is sought, which shall include the administration of a summative assessment or another assessment to third grade students in the subject areas; (ii) commit to providing at least 30 minutes of instruction per day to third grade students in the subject areas in which the assessment waiver is sought; and (iii) continue to administer benchmark assessments in science and in history and social science.

The superintendent of a division selected by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to receive a waiver must select at least two elementary schools in the division to participate in the two-year waiver program. Elementary schools that have been granted a two-year waiver must use the additional instruction time for study in reading and mathematics. In addition, the division superintendent must also indentify a peer elementary school in the division with similar student demographics to be paired, for control group purposes, with each elementary school granted a two-year waiver.

For any elementary school granted such waiver, the Board of Education must administer a survey to the third grade students to obtain information on the students' attitudes on forgoing the SOL assessments in science and in history and social science. The Board shall also administer a survey to the third grade teachers in such schools to obtain information on (1) how each teacher used the additional instructional time, (2) how much time each teacher spent teaching science and history and social science, (3) each teacher's opinion about the advisability of continuing and expanding the waiver pilot program, and (4) how, if at all, forgoing the administration of the SOL assessments in science and in history and social science improved the educational experience and academic achievement of their students. The Board must submit, no later than the first day of the 2016 Regular Session of the General

Assembly, an executive summary of the results of the surveys administered pursuant to this legislation.

The SOL waivers shall only be granted by the Board of Education pursuant to this legislation beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and concluding at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** In addition to granting the two-year SOL waivers for certain schools, this legislation also requires the Department of Education to compile data related to the implementation of such waivers. It is anticipated that the agency could incur some additional administrative costs associated with the collection and maintenance of such data but these costs could be absorbed within existing resources.

However, the substitute version of this bill adds the requirement of the Board of Education to survey third grade students and teachers in elementary schools that receive the two-year SOL waivers and peer schools that have been paired with them, which would require additional funding to support the contractual costs to develop and administer the surveys. The Department of Education does not have the internal capacity to complete the scope of work required in this bill. According to the Department of Education, the cost to complete the survey work and related reporting requirements of this legislation is estimated to be at least \$100,000; however, given the timeline stated in the legislation, such funding would not be needed until the 2014-2016 biennium.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Board of Education and local school divisions.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is similar to HB2144.

**Date:** 2/8/13

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