

## Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB228

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" 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:** Cole

**3. Committee:** Appropriations

**4. Title:** Visually impaired students; Braille.

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation would require each visually impaired student to be evaluated by a certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired and receive instruction in Braille or the use of Braille unless the team responsible for developing the student's education plan determines that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate to the student's educational needs. Current law requires a determination of the appropriateness of Braille but does not require the evaluation.

The bill allows the team to provide other specialized educational services and assistive technology devices in addition to Braille. The bill disallows the presence of some residual vision from precluding instruction in Braille and the use of Braille. The bill permits instruction in Nemeth Braille and the use of Nemeth Braille in addition to Braille.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 129.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Currently the Department of Education (DOE) only has a 0.5 FTE devoted to providing training and technical assistance on behalf of students with visual impairments. To meet its training requirement related to Braille services, DOE would need to augment staffing in order to provide training to school divisions on all required components of the bill and to develop an online training component that could be used in out years. DOE would also need to update all information and guidance, both online and in print, that is published for school divisions. The estimated cost to the state is an estimated \$200,000 in FY 2015 only to provide the additional training and to redesign and print guidance materials.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Local school divisions

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

**11. Other Comments:** Similar to SB291.

**Date:** 1/27/2014 dpb/smc

**Document:** G:\GA\FIS 2014\HB228.doc