

Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB153

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Stuart

3. **Committee:** Education

4. **Title:** Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families; special education programs.

5. **Summary:** Expands eligibility for services through the Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families program to students in Planning District 16 placed transferred from a private day setting into a public school special educational program established by a school division for the purpose of providing special education when the public school special educational program is able to provide services comparable to those of an approved private school special educational program, and the student would require placement in an approved private school special educational program but for the availability of the public school special educational program.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** See fiscal implications.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The substitute bill expands the population eligible for funding under the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) to include students with intellectual or learning disabilities in Planning District 16 who are currently served in private day settings when the public school program provides services comparable to a private school program and, without the public school program, the students would be placed in a private school program. Current statute specifies that only students with disabilities who require placement in approved private school programs are included in the CSA population. State funds for public school special education programs are provided by the Department of Education.

Under the terms of the substitute, there should be no additional cost to the state, assuming 1) the population that is eligible for CSA services as a result of this bill is limited to those transferring from a private placement, and therefore already receiving services under the Comprehensive Services Act, into a public school setting; and, 2) the cost of the public school setting is equal to or less than the cost of the private day setting.

It has been suggested that some youth might transition to lesser restrictive programs in public schools if additional funding is available to support the public programs. The number of

youth funded in private day schools for these five localities in FY 2013 totaled 292. The lower cost of public school services vs. private day placements may result in reduced costs for some children. There is, however, no concrete way to estimate the number of children who may move into a public school setting. The estimated reduction in state cost for each child that is moved into a public school setting using the statewide average cost for services in both placement types is \$7,181.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Comprehensive Services Act, Department of Education.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.