

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB229

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

2. **Patron:** Hanger

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** School bus personnel; training program; autism spectrum disorders.

5. **Summary:** Requires the Board of Education to establish a training program for school board employees who assist in the transportation of students on school buses, including individuals employed to operate school buses and school bus aides, on autism spectrum disorders, including the characteristics of autism spectrum disorders, strategies for interacting with students with autism spectrum disorders, the use of positive behavior supports, the use of restraint and seclusion, appropriate responses to bullying and unexpected changes, and collaboration with other employees who assist in the transportation of students on school buses. The bill requires each school board employee who assists in the transportation of students on school buses, including each individual employed to operate school buses and school bus aide, to participate in such training program.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Education's (DOE) preferred method to conduct this training is a train-the-trainer method, whereby a small number of employees from each local school division attends a statewide training, and those employees train additional employees within the local school division.

DOE can contract with an autism training specialist to coordinate the statewide training and to provide technical support to local school divisions after the training. DOE will incur costs to secure training facilities and to reimburse local school divisions for costs to attend training. Additionally, DOE anticipates the need to hire a partial full-time-equivalent position to provide ongoing technical assistance to local school divisions. Assuming this statewide training occurs only during one fiscal year, DOE estimates the following costs for training and ongoing support:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| One-time costs: | \$ | 250,000 | Autism training contract |
| | \$ | 100,000 | Reimburse local school divisions to attend training |
| | \$ | <u>50,000</u> | Rent training facilities |
| | \$ | 400,000 | Total one-time costs |

Ongoing cost: \$ 100,000 DOE position

However, if DOE is required to provide annual statewide training, all of these costs will be recurring.

Local school divisions may incur costs to provide training to additional employees following the statewide training and to staff substitutes during the statewide training. Any actual fiscal impact is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Education, local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None