

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB238

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

2. Patron: Barker

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Public schools; kindergarten instructional time.

5. Summary: Increases from 540 hours to 990 hours the minimum instructional hours in a school year for students in kindergarten, beginning July 1, 2022. The bill directs the Board of Education to adopt regulations by July 1, 2022, establishing standards for accreditation that include a requirement that the standard school day for students in kindergarten average at least 5.5 instructional hours in order to qualify for full accreditation.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 145 language amendment.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Requiring a minimum of 990 hours of instructional time in kindergarten would not affect the funding paid from the state to local school divisions based on average daily membership (ADM), nor would it affect local match requirements. Currently, as long as a school division's kindergarten pupil/teacher ratio is less than 30 to one, a student attending either a half-day kindergarten program or a full-day kindergarten program is counted as 1.00 in the division's ADM count. This bill removes language that requires school divisions offering half-day kindergarten with pupil/teacher ratios that exceed 30 to one to adjust their kindergarten ADM to reflect 85 percent of the total kindergarten ADM; however, currently there are not any divisions whose ADM values are adjusted under this provision. Similar language is included in Item 145 of SB30, 2020 General Assembly Session, and would need to be modified in accordance with this legislation.

School divisions that do not currently provide 990 hours of instructional time in kindergarten may experience additional costs to hire staff or add classroom space. The actual fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

It is anticipated that the Board of Education and Department of Education can absorb any costs resulting from this bill.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None