

Department of Planning and Budget

2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB509

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: The proposed legislation would direct the Board of Education to promulgate regulations by July 1, 2016, to establish standards for accreditation that include a requirement that the standard school day for students in kindergarten must average at least 5.5 instructional hours in order to qualify for full accreditation. Current regulations allow local school boards to have half-day kindergarten programs. The proposed bill would eliminate the half-day option, beginning July 1, 2016.

The bill has an enactment clause which delays the effective date until July 1, 2016.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Because this bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2016, there is no state or local fiscal impact in fiscal years 2014, 2015, or 2016. The actual fiscal impact on localities beginning in FY2017 cannot be determined at this time. Some local school divisions may need to provide additional resources, hire additional staff, or increase salaries commensurate with the length of the school day in order to accommodate full-day kindergarten versus half-day kindergarten. The extent of these additional costs is not currently known.

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 average daily membership (ADM) count that is used to determine the state's cost. Because requiring all divisions to offer only full-day kindergarten would not affect the ADM count, the funding paid from the state to school divisions will not change and this bill will have no state fiscal impact.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/24/2014 dpb/smc

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