

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 24, 2007

TO: Honorable Rob Eissler, Chair, House Committee on Public Education

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1632 by Eissler (relating to the use of technology by public schools.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB1632, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$100,620,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2009.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2008	(\$100,460,000)
2009	(\$160,000)
2010	(\$160,000)
2011	(\$160,000)
2012	\$0

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1	Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2007
2008	(\$100,460,000)	3.0
2009	(\$160,000)	3.0
2010	(\$160,000)	3.0
2011	(\$160,000)	3.0
2012	\$0	0.0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would authorize the commissioner to enter into an agreement with a public broadcasting station (PBS) or a consortium of stations under which the PBS would provide online instructional content and educational materials. The commissioner would be authorized to use funds appropriated to the agency to make instructional materials available through the PBS's for the purpose of instruction and professional development and for use in providing adult education.

The bill also would expand participation in the technology immersion pilot project to each high school to which a district assigns students who are participating currently in the project, and one middle/junior high school and one high school in each state senatorial district.

The bill would become effective on September 1, 2007, or immediately upon enactment by the

appropriate voting majorities.

Methodology

TEA estimates the cost to develop the instructional materials for use via agreements with PBS stations to be \$300,000 in FY2008. To the extent that the agency uses available federal funds for this purpose, this cost would decrease.

The Texas Education Agency estimates that expanding the existing technology immersion program -- to each high school that regularly serves students from current immersion middle/junior high schools and to one middle/junior high and one high school campus in each state senatorial district -- would cover approximately 71,500 students across about 84 schools. Based on the current pilot program, the technology costs per student are estimated to be \$1,400. Under these assumptions, the pilot program expansion would cost approximately \$100 million in one-time technology costs in FY2008.

The agency also would incur additional administrative costs to implement the expanded program. TEA estimates the need for 3 program administrators, with \$160,000 in supporting administrative costs annually through FY2011, at which point the program expires under current law.

Technology

No technology impact to the Texas Education Agency is expected.

Local Government Impact

Districts participating in the technology immersion pilot project would receive additional technology funds to meet the requirements of the program.

Source Agencies: 701 Central Education Agency

LBB Staff: JOB, JSp, UP, JGM