

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 19, 2007**

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

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

**IN RE: HB2503** by Eissler (Relating to a technology literacy assessment instrument to be administered to certain public school students.), **As Introduced**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for HB2503, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$6,000,000) 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:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</b>
2008	(\$5,500,000)
2009	(\$500,000)
2010	(\$500,000)
2011	(\$500,000)
2012	(\$500,000)

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Savings/(Cost) from GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1</b>
2008	(\$5,500,000)
2009	(\$500,000)
2010	(\$500,000)
2011	(\$500,000)
2012	(\$500,000)

**Fiscal Analysis**

This bill would create a technology literacy assessment pilot program for students in grades five through nine in both urban and rural areas of the state. The Texas Education Agency would be required to adopt an assessment instrument designed to assess an individual student's mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in technology. The bill would also require that the assessment instrument be designed in a manner that would provide districts with an automatic report of student performance that is compatible with school district and state data reporting information systems. Districts would be required to report student performance to the agency.

The provisions of the bill would apply beginning with the 2007-2008 school year. The bill would become effective on September 1, 2007, or immediately if voted upon favorably by two-thirds of all members of each house.

## **Methodology**

To implement this bill immediately would require the use of a currently available assessment instrument. However, according to the Texas Education Agency no currently available assessment instruments meet the provisions of this bill. The agency estimates that it would cost \$5 million in fiscal year 2008 to develop technology assessment instruments for grades 5-9.

Based on similar small-scale pilot projects previously conducted by TEA, the agency estimates a contracted operating cost of a pilot project would be \$500,000 per year. Because the bill does not have a sunset date on the pilot program, it is assumed that the program would continue through fiscal year 2012.

## **Technology**

The bill is not estimated to have a significant impact on the agency's technology costs.

## **Local Government Impact**

The bill is not estimated to have a significant cost to districts. It is assumed that only districts that already have the capacity to administer online technology literacy assessments would apply to participate in the pilot program.

**Source Agencies:** 701 Central Education Agency

**LBB Staff:** JOB, JSp, UP, JGM