

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 20, 2009

TO: Honorable Florence Shapiro, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

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

IN RE: HB192 by Alonzo (relating to the absence of a student from school for activities in connection with obtaining United States citizenship.), **Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would expand the definition of excused absences to include absence for the purpose of appearing at a governmental office to complete paperwork related to applying for U.S. citizenship or taking part in a U.S. naturalization oath ceremony, including travel for that purpose. Students whose absences for these purposes are excused would be counted as if in attendance for the purpose of calculating average daily attendance (ADA).

Student absence data is not reported by reason for absence, so the actual actual number of additional days that would be counted as attendance for ADA purposes under the bill is not readily available. However, the absences addressed under the bill are assumed currently to represent a relatively small proportion of total absences; as a result, the effect of the additional days counted as attendance would not be anticipated to significantly affect state cost under the Foundation School Program.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 701 Central Education Agency

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