

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

**FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 2, 2013**

**TO:** Honorable Jimmie Don Aycock, Chair, House Committee on Public Education

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE:** **SB1380** by Patrick (Relating to the placement of video monitoring cameras in self-contained classrooms providing special education services.), **As Engrossed**

<p><b>No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b></p>
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The bill would require school districts to provide video monitoring cameras in self-contained classrooms in which students received special services. Cameras would have to be capable of covering all areas of the classroom. The bill would require school districts to provide parents with written notice that video monitoring cameras were to be installed prior to installation, but would not require the district to secure parental consent. The bill would require a school district to keep the recorded video for at least one year after it was recorded.

A school district would be allowed to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations to use for placing video cameras in classrooms.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2013 - 2014 school year.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill calls for the provision of video surveillance equipment for installation in self-contained classrooms for students receiving special services. Special services are not defined, and since classrooms can be repurposed to serve different populations at different times, these provisions could require the purchase of cameras for installation in most classrooms or limit flexibility of use of classroom space. Before installation of cameras, districts would be required to notify parents in writing that cameras were to be installed. It is assumed that once cameras were installed, notification of parents that cameras were installed would not be required since video surveillance would not require the consent of parents.

There are approximately 73,375 students with disabilities being served in self-contained settings. If one camera was required for every five students, a minimum of 14,675 cameras would be required to be made available for installation statewide. The estimated minimum cost to purchase an inexpensive camera with limited-quality video or audio is \$150 per camera, or \$2.2 million total. If schools chose to install the cameras, there would be additional costs for installation and maintenance of the cameras.

If video footage was recorded, districts would be required to retain the footage for one year. Video storage would require additional costs and would require the video to be secured to protect the privacy of students. Other costs to districts would be masking software in case video became subject to public information requests if the video was archived.

Actual costs would vary from school district to school district depending on how many classrooms were considered self-contained, how many students met the definition of having to receive special services, the number of cameras to be purchased, and whether schools chose to install and maintain the cameras.

**Source Agencies:** 701 Central Education Agency

**LBB Staff:** UP, JBi, JSc