

Fiscal Analysis

DISTANCE LEARNERS AS FULL-TIME PUPILS



Bill/Sponsor **HOUSE BILL 4719 (H-2), Rep. Tom Casperson**

House Committee Education

Analysis

Summary

This bill amends the School Aid Act to allow pupils to be counted in membership if they receive instruction in a distance learning program operated by a district if all the following requirements are met: 1) the pupil is unable to attend school on a regular basis because of a documented health condition or the pupil has been expelled from school or the pupil is pregnant or is caring for a newborn child or another reason determined by a school board to be a valid reason; 2) the amount of instruction and content received through the distance learning program is equivalent to the amount the pupil would receive in the school district; 3) the district can track and document the days and hours of the distance learning instruction; and 4) the number of pupils the district counts in membership does not exceed 5% of the district's total membership.

Fiscal Impact

The bill would have an indeterminate increase in costs to the state. The state does not currently collect the number of students in distance learning programs, so the total number of such pupils is unknown. It is also unknown how many districts would operate a distance learning program. For every pupil that is eligible under this bill, a district would receive a foundation allowance. The average foundation allowance per pupil in the state is \$7,034.

Analyst(s)

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