

NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used in any other situation.

Only the most recent FIR version, excluding attachments, is available on the Intranet. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Nava	DATE TYPED:	02/15/00	HB	
SHORT TITLE:	Enrollment Growth Program Units			SB	37/aSFC
				ANALYST:	Fernandez

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB37 Relates to HB70

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

State Department of Public Education (SDE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFC Amendment

The Senate Finance Committee amendment strikes the appropriation from the bill.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 37 amends the public school funding formula to increase the enrollment growth factor from .5 to 1.86 units. This bill also appropriates \$6,207.0 to SDE for the additional units.

Significant Issues

School districts experiencing enrollment growth greater than one percent, when compared to the preceding year, are eligible for enrollment growth. In FY00, 13 districts are eligible to receive additional units and funding for enrollment growth.

During the 1999 First Special Session, school districts with rapid enrollment growth raised concerns that as a result of moving to the use of prior year 40th day and December 1 membership for 1999-2000, the formula did not provide sufficient funding for enrollment growth. Language was included in the 2000 General Appropriation Act to increase the marginal growth factor from 0.5 to 1.0.

One unanticipated consequence in shifting from the use of current year membership to using prior year membership results in districts with membership greater than one percent, no longer being able to generate

program units for growth students the first year in which they are enrolled. In the current fiscal year they are receiving 1.0 units for each additional student (language in the 2000 General Appropriation Act). Previously, new students were counted in the grade in which they were enrolled plus districts received an additional .50 units for each additional student through the enrollment growth factor for a total of 1.50 units. This bill amends the public school funding formula to increase the marginal growth factor from 1.0 to 1.86.

In July 1998, SDE hired a private contractor to conduct an evaluation of the enrollment growth factor, variables and methodology for the at-risk index, and funding for special education ancillary and related services personnel. With regard to enrollment growth, the contractor recommended amending the public school funding formula to increase the enrollment growth factor from 1.0 to 1.86 per additional student from the 40th day of the prior year to the 40th day of the current year. The 1.86 factor is based upon the average number of units generated by a student in 1998-99 and thus was determined by taking the total number of statewide units in 1998-99 divided by the total membership in 1998-99.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriates \$6,207.0 from the general fund to SDE for expenditure in fiscal year 2001. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2001 shall revert to the general fund.

According to SDE, two different methodologies were used to calculate additional growth units and costs for FY2001:

1. Growth units are calculated by determining the increase in membership between the 1999-00 40th day membership and the 2000-2001 projected 40th day membership. Based on this method, the amount required to fund the additional units is \$8,245.2

2. Growth units are calculated by determining the increase in membership between 1998-99 40th day membership and the 1999-2000 40th day membership. Based on this method, the amount required to fund the additional units is \$3,367.3.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB70 and duplicates HB87. House Bill 70 appropriates \$2,832.1 to SDE for expenditure in fiscal years 2000 and 2001 to provide funding for additional units to school districts experiencing enrollment growth.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

It should be noted that the recommendation by the contractor represents a significant shift in policy from the concept of funding marginal cost increases for growth in enrollment from one year to the next. In 1990 a new factor for enrollment growth was added to the public school funding formula. At that time, it was agreed that growth be funded on the margin. That is, provide additional funding for the marginal incremental cost of adding one student to an established classroom. The marginal cost factor added to the formula in 1990 was 0.5.

CTF/gm