

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: Picraux DATE TYPED: 03/14/01 HB 49/aHAFC
 SHORT TITLE: Change At-Risk Index Calculation SB _____
 ANALYST: Segura

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
				Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Department of Education SDE
LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

House Appropriations and Finance Committee has amended House Bill 49. The amendment to the bill removes the appropriation because the funds needed to cover the cost of the units generated are included in CS/HB-2 et al.

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 49 amends Section 22-8-23.3 of the Public School Finance Act to change the method of calculating the at-risk index for determining additional at-risk program units. The bill also appropriates \$3,000.0 to the State Department of Education for FY2002 to fund at-risk programs in public schools statewide.

Significant Issues

According to SDE, the lack of stability in the current method of calculating the at-risk index has had an adverse effect on some school districts, which has resulted in the curtailment or termination of some at-risk programs. Under the current methodology this instability is likely to continue until all districts are in compliance with federal procedures for identifying limited English proficiency students. The methodology retains the advantages of the current methodology in that it does not require the identification of students to receive funds (avoiding the charge of “formula chasing”) and it provides school districts with maximum flexibility in the design and delivery of programs for at-risk youth.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 49 appropriates \$3,000.0 from the general fund. The amount is based on 2000-2001 budgeted membership, at-risk program units and unit value.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

The bill relates to an line item contained in the Public School Support recommendations by the LFC, LESC, State Board of Education and Executive.

RS/ar/njw