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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Arnold-Jones DATE TYPED 02/11/05 HB HM 15

SHORT TITLE Use of Professional for School Computers SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Chabot

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			See Narrative		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 511

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Office of Information Technology Management (OITM)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 15 resolves PED study the feasibility of including network administrators and other information technology professionals as a category of instructional support providers, and report the findings to the Legislative Education Study Committee prior to the 2006 session.

#### Significant Issues

PED assess “the human aspect of infrastructure is often the ‘weakest link’ in educational technology. Access to professional-level IT resources is essential to business and government in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and no less important to education. However, IT professionals are more highly compensated in both business and government than public school pay schedules allow, which have made it a challenge to recruit and retain skilled IT professionals within schools.”

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

PED states the cost of such a study will be \$55 thousand and neither the agency nor the school districts can absorb the cost. Classification of IT professionals as a category of instructional support providers could open access to new areas of school budgets but funding would probably come from decreases in other employment categories.

**ALTERNATIVES**

PED suggests the Council on Technology in Education be tasked for this study and be allowed to use Educational Technology Funds for related costs.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?**

School districts will continue to hire IT personnel using existing employment procedures.

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. What are the benefits of classifying IT personnel as instructional support providers?

**GAC/sb**