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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/09

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Change Mentorship Program Fund Distribution SB 146

ANALYST Wilson

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Finance & Administration (DFA)

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 146 proposes that no less than 50% of the mentorship program funds be distributed to school districts on or before September 15th based upon an estimate of the number of beginning teachers, and that the remainder of the funds be distributed on or before January 15th based upon the final 40th day numbers.

Additionally, SB 146 makes adjustments for the over or under estimation in the first allocation which must be made by January 15th.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that it will require approximately an additional 50 hours of staff time and the involvement of the PED's Educator Quality Division, Administrative Services Division and Office of the Secretary in order to process a second fund distribution.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The teacher mentorship program supports beginning teachers in effectively transitioning into the teaching field in building on their initial preparation to ensure their success in teaching and

improving student achievement. It is meant to help retain capable teachers in the classroom and to remove teachers who show little promise of success.

PED provided the following:

Prior to FY 08, mentorship funds were distributed to districts based on the number of beginning teachers on the 120th day of the previous school year and distributed on a reimbursement basis. The law was amended in 2007 to require that mentorship funds be distributed to districts according to the number of beginning teachers on the 40th day of the current school year. Both the PED and districts report that the requirement to distribute funds to districts based on the number of beginning teachers on the 40th day of the current school year, which usually occurs in October, means that PED is unable to distribute funds until late in the school year”

With SB 146, there is a potential for over or under estimating the number of new teachers for which the estimated 50% of the award will be made by September 15th. Data for this first distribution will need to be reported by districts to the PED’s Professional Development Bureau by no later than mid-summer in order for awards to be distributed by September 15th. If not, the distribution will have to be based on the previous year’s allocation.

The current system provides accurate information for the distribution of mentorship funds. Changing the system to a twice a year distribution system could, in many cases, result in an over-distribution to school districts. Districts will then have to reimburse the PED for these funds. Small districts will most likely be impacted because some years they hire several teachers and then go several years without hiring any new staff. It will be difficult for districts to reimburse monies that they have already spent.

Under the current system of funding the mentorship programs, funds are distributed in late January, but they are based upon accurate data. Carry-over is allowed past June 30 and can be utilized in the following year.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED can meet the requirements of this bill with existing staff.

DW/mc