

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Wirth LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/2023
SHORT TITLE Local News Fellowship Program BILL NUMBER Senate Bill 159
ANALYST Chenier

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Workforce Solutions (WSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 159

Senate Bill 159 appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to WSD for a local news fellowship program.

The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund.

WSD says it has the budget and accounting processes in place to ensure disbursement of funds are used for a local news fellowship program and no additional FTE required.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

WSD reports it is the primary agency for administering the some \$30 million in federal grants

the state receives under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The grants are distributed to four local workforce development boards to pay for training activities for eligible adults, dislocated workers, and youth. WSD says the goal of the 2 FTE youth program is to prepare these youth for postsecondary education and employment opportunities, attain educational or training credentials, and secure employment that has a positive career outlook:

Both of these positions provide technical assistance and training to the local workforce development boards and workforce partners on best and promising practices in youth engagement, strategies for strengthening coordination with youth agencies and organizations, including secondary and postsecondary schools and programs in an effort to promote statewide awareness of the unique workforce needs of youth; as well as provide general awareness and utilization of tools and resources available through WSD designed specifically for youth workforce development.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

WSD says all efforts to improve strategic, integrated and comprehensive approaches that improve opportunities for job seekers to achieve economic success will positively impact the performance outcomes of the programs administered by the Workforce Solutions Department. The proposed bill does not align with specific requirements to provide training in high demand jobs.

EC/al/hg