

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 15 (Act 2022-80) as enacted allows the State Textbook Committee to meet up to an additional ten days during a school year which could increase the obligations of the State Department of Education by an estimated maximum of \$37,000 annually, if the Committee meets for the additional days. The provisions of this act requires the SDE to make final ratings and reviews available on the Department's website which would increase the administrative obligations of the Department by an undetermined amount.

Further, this act would also increase the financial obligations of the State Department of Education to reimburse experts and members of instructional materials review committees, established by the State Superintendent of Education to review and rate the quality and alignment of instructional materials, for per diem and travel expenses from funds appropriated to the Department. The amount of the increased obligation is undetermined, but would be dependent upon: (1) the number of committees convened; (2) the number of members on each committee, and (3) the number of days that each committee meets.

The provisions of this act could also increase the obligations of the State Board of Education, subject to appropriations from the Legislature, by allowing the Board to pay a portion of negotiated textbook prices or grant additional funds to local boards of education who purchase high quality textbooks, as determined by the State Board of Education.

In addition, the provisions of this act exempts local boards of education purchasing certain instructional materials, including electronic versions, from the competitive bidding process for purchases from a current vetted and approved list published by the SDE which could increase or decrease the financial obligations of local boards of education by an undetermined amount dependent upon: (1) the advertising costs for each bid; (2) the number of bids a local board advertises; and (3) the cost of the instructional materials, including any electronic versions.