



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1902

LR 2942(02)

An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Task Force To Identify Special Education Cost Drivers and Innovative Approaches to Services

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential State Mandate - Unfunded

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Projections FY 2019-20	Projections FY 2020-21
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$435,135	\$323,759	\$338,967
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$435,135	\$323,759	\$338,967

State Mandates

Required Activity

Requires all school administrative units to enhance and upgrade the system of response to intervention for kindergarten to grade 12 to become an all-encompassing, tiered system of support for all general and special education students who are not progressing towards meeting the content standards of the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements.

Unit Affected

School

Local Cost

Significant statewide

The required local activities in this bill may represent a state mandate pursuant to the Constitution of Maine. If the bill does require a local unit of government to expand or modify its activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenue, the state mandate provisions of the Constitution of Maine require either: (1) General Fund appropriations be provided to fund at least 90% of any additional necessitated local costs of the mandate; or (2) a Mandate Preamble be added to the bill and two-thirds of the members of each House vote to exempt the mandate from the funding requirement. If the bill does represent a state mandate and neither one of these actions occurs, the local units of government will not be required to implement the mandated activities.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes General Fund appropriations totaling \$435,135 in fiscal year 2018-19 to the Special Services Team program within the Department of Education for the costs associated with enhancing and upgrading the system of response to intervention and a review of the MaineCare billing systems and procedures as it relates to school administrative units (SAU's) billing for medically necessary services.

Of this amount, \$285,135 is provided to establish one Public Service Coordinator position and 2 Education Specialist III positions and related All Other costs associated with the upgrading and enhancing of the response to intervention systems including administration and monitoring as well as providing technical assistance to SAU's. Additionally, \$150,000 is provided in fiscal year 2018-19 only for the review of the MaineCare billing systems and processes as it relates to SAU's billing for medically necessary services.

Any additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services to take part in the working group to address problems in the current MaineCare billing system and processes for medically necessary services are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. The additional costs to the Legislature for recodification of statutes concerning special education can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources assuming this work is completed during the interim periods between legislative sessions.