

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6908
BILL NUMBER: HB 1492

DATE PREPARED: Dec 17, 1998
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Language Assistance Program Grants.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill would provide a \$750 per pupil grant to school corporations for a language assistance program dedicated to the development of academic and social proficiency in English for eligible pupils who have a primary language other than English.

Effective Date: January 1, 2000.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Under current law, Indiana's 294 school corporations receive the following funding items: 1) tuition support for basic programs; 2) growing enrollment adjustment and at-risk grants; and 3) honors diploma awards. In addition to these monies, this bill would award school corporations a \$750 per limited English proficiency (LEP) pupil grant to be used for a language assistance program.

For school year 1997-98 (1998-99 data are currently incomplete), approximately 25,000 pupils were reported to the Department of Education (the Department) as having a primary language other than English. Of these pupils, approximately 9,144 were reported as LEP (determined by a standard proficiency examination given at the local school level). Currently, school corporations do not report whether or not they implement language assistance programs for pupils with a primary language other than English.

This bill would take effect on January 1, 2000. Assuming that the number of LEP students remains constant for school year 1999 - 2000 and beyond, approximately \$6,858,000 would be needed annually to fund the provisions of this bill. This bill does not make an appropriation, and would require that the grants be used for the development of academic and social proficiency in English.

This bill would also require that the Department approve the standard proficiency examination administered by each school corporation in order to determine the number of LEP pupils. Since the number of LEP pupils are currently reported to the Department of Education based on industry accepted proficiency examinations already in use, it is unlikely that this provision would result in significant additional administrative cost to

the Department. However, the Department would likely incur a minimal increase in administrative time due to the requirements of this bill.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: See Explanation of State Expenditures.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Darlene Slaby, Department of Education, 317/232-0555; Department of Education, ORACLE data base.