

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

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6299

BILL NUMBER: SB 35

DATE PREPARED: Nov 9, 1999

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: School safety.

FISCAL ANALYST: David Hoppmann

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (1) This bill would require a school superintendent to immediately notify law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm onto school property or is in possession of a firearm on school property. It would provide that the superintendent may give similar notice if a deadly weapon other than a firearm is involved. It would require a law enforcement agency that receives notice from a superintendent to investigate and take appropriate action. It would remove a requirement that the superintendent notify the county prosecutor in similar situations.

(2) It would require the superintendent of a school corporation or equivalent authority of an accredited nonpublic school to notify the state superintendent of public instruction when the administrator knows that a current or former employee with a teacher's license has been convicted of an offense for which a teacher loses a license (The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Interim Study Committee on Education Issues).

Effective Date: July 1, 2000.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction would not incur significant administrative time or cost in accordance with the provisions of this bill.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (1) Under current Indiana law, a superintendent must notify the prosecuting attorney (of the county where the school is located) if a student is expelled for bringing a firearm onto school property or for possessing a firearm on school property. This bill would require that the superintendent immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency if a student brings a firearm or other deadly weapon onto school property or possesses such a weapon on school property. In addition, this bill would require that a law enforcement agency receiving notification, begin an investigation and take

appropriate action.

Currently, superintendents usually contact local law enforcement agencies when a student displays the above behavior. After notification, law enforcement agencies usually begin appropriate investigations. Since these agencies already respond to and investigate such cases, they are not likely to incur any additional administrative time or cost in fulfilling the provisions of this bill.

(2) School corporations would not incur significant administrative time or cost in accordance with the provisions of this bill.

Explanation of Local Revenues: (1) Currently, some small local jurisdictions are served by prosecuting attorneys' offices that hire investigators who might research cases concerning students bringing a deadly weapon to school. These small jurisdictions could experience a decrease in administrative time and cost in accordance with this bill.

The effects of this bill would vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and would depend upon local action.

The following table illustrates the number of Indiana public school expulsions for the 1997-1998 school year.

1997-1998 Indiana Public School Expulsions for Deadly Weapons/Firearms by Grade															
	PK	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Deadly Weapons (other than firearms)		1	4	7	4	8	11	40	53	80	95	45	29	28	405
Handguns			1	1	1		1	2	4	13	6	13	17	10	69
Rifles or Shotguns										2	1	3	1		7
Other Firearms			1			1	3	3	7	3	12	6	6	2	44
Totals		1	6	8	5	9	15	45	64	98	114	67	53	40	525

State Agencies Affected: Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations, County Prosecuting Attorneys' Offices, and Law Enforcement Agencies.

Information Sources: J.D. Lux, Attorney General's Office, (317) 233-6312; Steve Johnson, Prosecuting Attorney's Council, (317) 232-1836; Kevin McDowell, General Council, Department of Education.