

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6521

BILL NUMBER: SB 85

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 21, 2011

BILL AMENDED: Jan 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Study of Schools with Low Graduation Rates.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Leising

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill creates the High School Graduation Study Committee to study the causes of low graduation rates in certain schools and how the graduation rates can be improved.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill establishes a 14-member High School Graduation Study Committee consisting of four legislators, seven lay members, and three state employees.

The committee would do the following:

- (1) Study the causes of low graduation rates in high schools that have less than a 50% graduation rate;
- (2) Identify best practices that increase graduation rates in high schools in Indiana and other states;
- (3) Identify training and technical assistance opportunities for high schools to effectively address low graduation rates.

The committee would consist of the following members:

- (1) the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or the State Superintendent's designee;
- (2) the executive director of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents or the executive director's designee;
- (3) the executive director of the Indiana School Board Association or the executive director's designee;

- (4) the executive director of the Indiana Association of School Principals or the executive director's designee;
- (5) two members of the House of Representatives, one from each party, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (6) two members from the Senate, one from each party, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- (7) three high school principals appointed by the Governor, one each from a public high school, an accredited nonpublic high school, and a charter high school;
- (8) three teachers appointed by the Governor: a certified teacher from a public high school, a teacher from an accredited nonpublic high school, and a certified teacher from a charter high school.

Each member of the committee would be appointed for two years. The chairman of the Legislative Council is to appoint a legislative member of the committee to serve as committee chair. The committee is to operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council, except that committee members who are not legislators would not be compensated for per diem, mileage, and travel expenses.

The bill directs the committee to submit a status report on its progress to the Governor and the Legislative Council by December 1, 2012. A final report stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations is to be submitted by June 30, 2013.

Under the bill, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) would provide administrative support for the committee. At the request of LSA, the Department of Education (DOE) is to assign staff to provide research and other support. The bill's requirements are within the agencies' routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

Background: According to the DOE, in 2010, 36 percent of public high schools had a graduation rate of between 90 and 100 percent; 2 percent (9 schools) had a graduation rate of less than 50 percent; 6 percent (21 schools) had a graduation rate between 50 and 70 percent. Approximately 84 percent of high school students graduated within four years.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: LSA, DOE.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Education website, <http://www.doe.in.gov/gradrate/>

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