



March 21, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (006281): Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a statewide needs analysis of preschool education in Tennessee and to report the results on the department's website by March 31, 2024. Requires DOE to establish the Tennessee Preschool Task Force (Task Force). Requires the Task Force to develop a strategic plan for preschool education in the state with recommendations on how to expand preschool opportunities by June 1, 2024. Requires the Task Force to submit the strategic plan and recommendations to the education committees of the Senate and House of Representatives. Requires DOE to implement a pilot program to award grant funds to five local education agencies (LEAs) to implement innovative and high-quality preschool programs in the 2023-24 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

Increase State Expenditures - \$4,005,500/FY23-24

Increase Local Revenue - \$4,000,000/FY23-24

Other Fiscal Impact – The Department of Education received a one-year \$4,000,000 federal Preschool Development Grant that will be utilized to award grants to local education agencies. Expenditures by the agencies are anticipated to be made over a multiple-year period.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The Task Force will meet throughout the 2023-24 school year and is required to develop a strategic plan for preschool education in the state with recommendations on how to expand preschool opportunities by June 1, 2024.
- The Task Force will be comprised of the following seven members:
 - A representative from DOE;
 - A representative from the Department of Human Services;
 - A member of the Education Administration Committee of the House of Representatives;
 - A member of the Education Instruction Committee of the House of Representatives;
 - A member of Education Committee of the Senate;
 - A community member; and

- A parent.
- It is assumed that members of the task force will serve without compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses, except for legislative members who will be compensated as members of the General Assembly, and for state employees who will serve on the task force as part of their regular responsibilities.
- Meetings may be held virtually. It is assumed that some meetings will be held virtually and that the Task Force will meet in person four times.
- The General Assembly will be in session at the time of one Task Force meetings; thus, legislative members serving on the Task Force will not receive compensation or travel reimbursement for one meeting.
- Legislative members will receive per diem of \$313 per meeting and be reimbursed for travel at a rate of \$0.63 per mile, with an average of 254 miles roundtrip, or \$160 (\$0.63 x 254 miles) for travel.
- For three Task Force meetings, the total cost associated with reimbursing legislative members will be \$4,257 [(\$313 + \$160) x 3 legislative members x 3 meetings] in FY23-24.
- The total cost associated with reimbursing non-legislative Task Force members for travel expenses will be \$1,280 (\$160 x 2 members x 4 meetings).
- The total costs for the Task Force will increase state expenditures \$5,537 (\$4,257 + \$1,280) in FY23-24.
- The proposed legislation requires DOE to implement a pilot program to award grants to five LEAs to implement innovative and high-quality preschool programs in the 2023-24 school year.
- DOE received a federal one-year \$4,000,000 Preschool Development Grant and will use those funds to award grants to LEAs for innovative and high-quality preschool programs.
- Each LEA participating in the pilot program will receive \$800,000 (\$4,000,000 / 5) in grant awards for FY23-24. The proposed legislation will increase local revenue by \$4,000,000 in FY23-24. Expenditures by LEAs are anticipated to be made over a multiple-year period.
- The total increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$4,005,537 (\$5,537 + \$4,000,000) in FY23-24.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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