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LB 66

Revision: 00

FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *

	FY 2007-08		FY 2008-09	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS				

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

LB 66 requires school districts to incorporate a driver safety course into the high school curriculum as an elective. The Commissioner of Education is to prepare teaching aids and materials necessary for a driver safety course. The operative date of the bill is July 1, 2008.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is currently approving driver safety education courses provided in school districts. DMV indicates 135 courses currently offered by schools have been approved in addition to courses provided by 27 private providers for 131 schools. It is possible that most school districts now have an approved driver safety education course. However, it appears that most of these courses are not offered as an elective during the school day. The courses may be offered through summer school programs and may not be offered as a credit course. It is assumed fees are charged for most driver safety education courses offered by school districts.

If the assumptions stated above are true and driver safety courses are not currently included as an elective in most high school curriculums, then there may be a fiscal impact for schools to incorporate driver education courses into the curriculum. If the course is included as an elective and offered during the school day, then fees may not be charged for the course and the school district will have to pick up the cost of the course. Adding the course will increase overall school district instructional expenses unless other curriculum changes are made to accommodate the new elective. It appears fees may continue to be charged when the course is offered during summer school.

The State Department of Education (NDE) projects an annual increase in general fund expenditures of \$20,000 for teaching aids and materials development and distribution. Since driver safety courses approved by DMV are in existence, this fiscal note assumes existing staff at NDE will incur minimal costs to review current course materials and teaching aids and make recommendations on course materials to be used by schools. It is also assumed an additional consultant for driver safety education will not be added at NDE. The revision of a rule can be accomplished with existing resources of the department.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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COMMENTS			
<p>LB 66 appears to highlight the potential for overlapping responsibilities between the Dept. of Education (NDE) and the Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Given that the Dept. of Motor Vehicles already approves and audits driver safety courses in the schools, it is not clear that the Dept. of Education needs to create an additional position to carry out its school accreditation oversight. Whatever necessary role NDE has in carrying out such duties may well be absorbed with existing staff and other current resources. The statewide fiscal impact on local school districts is unknown, but could be significant by requiring additional staff and vehicle acquisition. Any additional local spending will also in turn lead to higher TEEOSA State Aid costs two years later.</p>			