



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 801

PRINTER'S NO. 1939

PRIME SPONSOR: Aument

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26
General Fund	\$0	\$0

### SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 801 relates to evidence-based reading instruction, sometimes called the Science of Reading.

### ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 801 amends the Public School Code, Article XII – Certification of Teachers, Section 1205.8 – Teacher Support in the Structured Literacy Program. The bill requires educator preparation program instructors who teach reading and literacy education programs to prospective educators to be trained in interventions based on structured literacy.

Senate Bill 801 creates a new Article XV-N – Evidence-based Reading Instruction – in the Public School Code. This article requires the Department of Education (PDE) to develop and maintain lists of approved evidence-based reading instruction curricula, structured literacy professional development training, universal reading screeners, and structured literacy intervention approaches. PDE must review and approve submissions in conjunction with a newly established reading leadership council comprised of 20 literacy and reading professionals appointed by the department. The bill requires PDE to establish a process for vendors to submit curricula or programs for review, and it sets a June 1, 2025 deadline for PDE to publish the lists.

Senate Bill 801 amends Article XVII-A – Charter Schools – (c) Cyber Charter Schools – of the Public School Code to address Section 1749-A – Applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations. The applicable statutory citations listed in paragraph form are deleted and relisted in separate subparagraphs. This change would take effect immediately and apply retroactively to July 11, 2024.

The other changes in Senate Bill 801 would take effect in 90 days.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

PDE indicated the additional duties in Senate Bill 801 will cost an estimated \$260,000, with \$160,000 attributable to one new position and \$100,000 for curriculum support.

The bill will impose an indeterminate cost on local education agencies (LEA). This bill does not include a state mandate for LEAs to adopt curriculum or interventions included on the list required to be published by PDE. LEAs may incur additional professional development training costs.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

**DATE:** October 8, 2024

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*