

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis House Appropriations Committee

Concerning civil rights violations involving discriminatory practices in public schools.

Prime Sponsors:

Representative Bacon
Senator Kolker

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Required, Amendments in Packet

General Fund Impact

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/29/26.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

- J.001 Staff-prepared appropriation amendment
- L.008 Bill Sponsor amendment - does not change fiscal impact
- L.009 Bill Sponsor amendment – change to fiscal impact not yet determined
- J.002 Bill Sponsor amendment - changes appropriation

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriation clause.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.001

Staff amendment **J.001** (attached) appropriates a total of \$458,485 General Fund to the Department of Regulatory Agencies, of which \$102,688 is reappropriated to the Department of Law, for FY 2026-27. The appropriation reflects 4.3 FTE.

L.008

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.008** (attached) adds to the list of prohibited discriminatory practices for a public school or public school employee to not adequately respond to instances of harassment that occur at the public school. Adequate response is described as acknowledging and developing a plan to end the harassment within 60 days after receiving a report of harassment. The amendment includes other technical changes.

LCS and JBC Staff concur that this amendment does not change the bill's fiscal impact.

L.009

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.009** (attached) adds the following provisions to the bill:

- If an individual files a charge with the state Civil Rights Division and files a substantially similar complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, the Division may dismiss the state charges if the federal complaint was filed before filing with the State or void state findings and remedies if the federal complaint was filed after the resolution of the state complaint.
- Encourages the Division to contract with persons with expertise in the field of discrimination in educational settings to provide assistance with mediating cases, including volunteer assistance.
- The Commission and Division may seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants or donations to support the provisions in the bill.

LCS and JBC Staff anticipate that this sponsor amendment will reduce the fiscal impact of the bill. However, the amount of the reduction is not yet estimated.

J.002

Bill Sponsor amendment **J.002** (attached) appropriates a total of \$80,977 General Fund to the Department of Regulatory Agencies. The appropriation reflects 0.9 FTE.

This amount is based on the first year cost of a 1.0 FTE Compliance Investigator II position.

The Committee may adopt L.008 and L.009 in combination with one of the two “J” amendments. It may adopt either J.001 or J.002 but should not adopt both.

Points to Consider

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2026-27 based on the March 2026 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) revenue forecast. The budget package includes \$57.3 million in set-asides for legislation outside of the package (see table below). The budget package accounts for the 13.0 percent reserve associated with the placeholders.

General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2026 Legislation

Item	FY 2026-27
SB 26-149 (Pathways for Individuals with Mental Health Disorders)	\$23,222,868
Competency services	20,000,000
Potential prison capacity supplemental	5,900,000
Applied Behavioral Analysis Licensing	5,000,000
County Administration shared services	3,100,000
Medicaid Working Group	500,000
HB 26-1331 (Modify 2026 Interim Committees)	-396,469
Total - Placeholders for other legislation	\$57,326,399

General Fund Impact

This bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$458,485 for FY 2026-27, reducing the \$57.3 million set aside by the same amount. If **J.002** is adopted, the bill will include a General Fund appropriation of \$80,977 for FY 2026-27, reducing the \$57.3 million set aside by the same amount.