

Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1909

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Batten

3. **Committee:** Education

4. **Title:** Public elementary and secondary schools; establishment of opportunity classrooms.

5. **Summary:** Requires, subject to the approval of the local school board or the administration of the school where the requesting part is located, a local school board to enter into an agreement to establish an opportunity classroom, or a classroom in which an alternative curriculum is offered, with a requesting party if such party represents more than 20 students and permits such local school board to enter into such an agreement if such requesting party represents fewer than 20 students. The bill provides that a "requesting party" includes (i) a public elementary or secondary school teacher or a group of such teachers in a local school division or (ii) a parent whose child attends a public elementary or secondary school or group of such parents, with the involvement of at least one teacher employed in such local school division. Finally, the bill delineates requirements for such agreements to establish opportunity classrooms relating to funding for classroom instruction and services, provision of transportation for students enrolled in an opportunity classroom, and assessments and standards of evaluation for students enrolled in an opportunity classroom.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** There is no anticipated impact to the Department of Education as a result of the provisions of this bill. If the presence of opportunity classrooms leads to increased enrollment over current projected enrollment there could be an increase to state and local costs. Any additional materials used to serve these classrooms could be picked up in the prevailing textbook and instructional materials costs that are funded through the Standards of Quality. Any actual impact in future biennia is indeterminate at this time and dependent on future rebenchmarkings of the Direct Aid to Public Education budget. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Local school divisions

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. Other Comments: None