

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.101 An act relating to the implementation of 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173 by providing grant funding to build systems-driven, sustainable literacy support for all students with measurable outcomes— House Education Draft No. 7.1—As amended by the House Committee on Appropriations

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Education/Bills/H.101/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/H.101~James%20DesMarais~%20Draft%207.1,%203-9-2021~3-9-2021.pdf>

Bill Summary:

This bill proposes grant funding to aid supervisory unions to support the implementation of 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173 through systems-driven, sustainable literacy support for all students. Supervisory unions, or multiple supervisory unions that chose to collaborate, may apply to the Agency of Education for this grant funding.

This bill creates the Advisory Council on Literacy which shall advise the Agency of Education, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly on how to improve and sustain literacy outcomes for students in prekindergarten through grade 12. This bill also creates a position, Statewide Literacy Coordinator, in the Agency of Education.

Fiscal Impact:

The Agency of Education shall award up to \$100,000 per application per year, to successful applicants on or before September 1, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The Agency of Education shall set aside not more than 1% for informational and technical assistance and not more than 2% for the evaluations required by this bill for each fiscal year 2022, 2023, and 2024. If the amount appropriated is insufficient to fully fund the grants, then the amounts awarded shall be prorated.

- **Appropriations for Literacy Grant Program: \$3,090,000 to the Agency of Education from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 pursuant to Section 2001(f)(1), 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 for FY22 to be used over the three years FY22, 23, 24**

For this level of funding, 10 supervisory unions can receive grants, at the maximum grant of \$100,000 per year, for all three years for \$3,000,000. The Agency of Education set aside for all three years comes to \$30,000 for informational and technical assistance and \$60,000 for the

evaluation requirements. The total of the demonstration grants and Agency of Education set aside is \$3,090,000 for all three years.

There shall be one full-time, director level, classified position to serve as the Statewide Literacy Coordinator in the Office of the Secretary at the Agency of Education. The cost of this position is \$150,000 per year for a total of \$450,000 to be used over the three years FY 2022, 2023, 2024.

- **Appropriation for the Statewide Literacy Coordinator position: \$450,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 pursuant to Section 2001(f)(4), 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 for FY22 to be used over the three years FY22, 23, 24**

The Advisory Council on Literacy shall be composed of 14 public members. The 6 council members that are not ex-officio shall receive per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted by 32 V.S.A. § 1010. There shall not be more than eight meetings of the Council per year. The JFO standard method for calculating compensation and expenses for public members is \$126 per diem. Assuming all Council members attend all meetings, then:

- **Estimated annual cost for Advisory Council on Literacy: \$6,000 per year for a total of \$18,000 for the three fiscal years FY22, 23, 24**

The following appropriations are for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses.

- **Appropriations for Advisory Council on Literacy: \$18,000 to the Agency of Education from American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 pursuant to Section 2001(f)(4), 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 for FY22 to be used over FY22, 23, 24**

The Advisory Council on Literacy shall be sunset for FY24, meaning that appropriation shall be determined then if the Council continues onward.