

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2520
Version:	FULLPCS1
Request Number:	8152
Author:	Rep. West (Tammy)
Date:	2/25/2019
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The proposed committee substitute to HB2520 pertains to alternative education and does many things.

The measure changes the date by which school districts must report to the State Department of Education (SDE) a needs assessment identifying students who are most at risk of not completing a high school education. It sets a deadline for districts to submit to the SDE a proposed plan for meeting the needs of the students at risk of not graduating by establishing, continuing or expanding alternative education programs.

The measure requires the State Board of Education to incorporate the annual needs assessment data into an annual report, and make it available on the State Department of Education's website. The report shall include a listing by school district of the number of students funded and the reported number of students served in an alternative education program.

The measure changes the alternative education funding calculation.

Other requirements in the measure include:

- A certified teacher in an alternative education program or school to be paid five percent (5%) more than the designated salary step for that teacher within the adopted salary schedule of the school district.
- A person providing counseling or social services in an alternative education program or school to be certified as a school counselor by the State Board of Education or as a mental health provider.
- Elementary school districts to request a waiver from the requirements by certain date, and any waiver request to be accompanied by an assurance the school district does not have students in need of alternative education.

The proposed committee substitute deletes language:

- Allowing a district board of education to authorize enrollment on a part-time basis utilizing Internet-based courses for students who have dropped out of school or are or have been suspended from school.
- Requiring the State Board of Education to prepare and submit a proposed statewide plan for students identified as being at risk of not graduating high school to the legislature and Governor.

- Allowing the counseling and social services component of alternative education programs to be conducted by non-certified school counselors.
- Requiring an alternative education plan to include an evaluation component including an annual written self-evaluation;
- That is obsolete

The measure grants the State Board of Education the authority to:

- Create an evaluation schedule for effective and highly effective programs, requiring them to be evaluated not less than once every three (3) years.
- Suspend funds for an alternative education program that does not that conform to the requirements of statutes and rules applicable to alternative education.

Prepared By: Emily Wendler

Fiscal Analysis

As written, it is anticipated the measure will have no additional fiscal impact on the state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Cole Stout

Other Considerations

None.