

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COUNCIL

2020 South Dakota Legislature

FISCAL NOTE 2020-FN117A

SB117 requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a program and policy to be disseminated to all school districts and other local educational agencies which promote the education of children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

According to information obtained from the DOE, in grades K through 12 as of December 2018, under the categories of hearing loss, deafness, or multiple disabilities with a hearing loss or deafness, DOE has record of 185 students located in 67 school districts. The annual cost to ensure a special education teacher in each of these school districts is trained to be proficient in the primary language mode of the children could be up to an estimated \$310,356. This estimate includes potential costs for state-funded interpreter mentoring programs and continuing education workshops. This estimate does not include costs assumed to be paid by the individual interpreter, such as educational requirements, examination fees, and registration fees.

The annual cost to establish a workgroup of parents of children and people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, teachers, and trained professionals to determine the extent, content, and purpose of the program and hold quarterly meetings is estimated to be \$13,500.

The annual cost to develop and print materials, hold one annual workshop, one annual symposium, and additional training each year is estimated to be \$46,482.

The total fiscal impact is estimated to be \$370,338.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Jason Hancock
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