



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2192**LR 2853(06)**

An Act Regarding School Employee Investigations

Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:**C "A" (S-623)****S "A" (S-652) to C "A" (S-623)****Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs**

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - School Administrative Units

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill may create additional costs for school entities, including school administrative units, in the course of conducting investigations into alleged employee conduct that endangers the health, safety, or welfare of a student. School entities will be required to place any employee under investigation on paid leave, which may increase costs for substitute teachers or other coverage. School entities will also be required to complete all investigations, even if the subject of the investigation leaves the employment of the school. Currently, school entities do not necessarily complete investigations when the subject leaves the school, and so requiring all investigations to be completed may require additional resources of school entities. The bill also expands the scope of and procedures required for a "covered investigation," which may increase the number of investigations that schools are required to complete and therefore require additional expenditures by school administrative units.

While the total number of investigations carried out by schools in a year is not known, the Department of Education (department) is notified of approximately 20 to 50 investigations per year, including those investigations which are not completed, and there are approximately 250 school administrative units in the State. Therefore, this fiscal note assumes that the number of additional investigations that will need to be completed by any single school administrative unit in a given year is likely to be very low. Any additional costs to the Department of Education to implement the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.