

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 570
Version:	INT
Request No.:	224
Author:	Sen. Standridge
Date:	01/25/2019

Bill Analysis

SB 570 creates the Hope Scholarship Program Act. The program will provide scholarships to a private school of choice to students who experienced bullying incidents beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. Parents requesting the scholarship must provide documentation certifying the fact that a student experienced bullying or harassment incidents at least three times in a single school year. Eligible students must also have attended a public school and have acceptance of admission from the private school. Parents must assume full financial responsibility for the education of the student.

School districts must notify each parent with students enrolled in the district about the program. Private school districts must receive approval from the State Department of Education to participate in the program and must provide evidence of the district's adherence to accreditation standards, fiscal soundness, and employment of properly certified teachers. Students participating in the program must adhere to various requirements outlined in the measure.

The Department is directed by the measure to calculate the total costs of the program and reserve the total amount appropriated to the State Board of Education for State Aid purposes and any other revenue available for allocation for State Aid purposes the total cost for all scholarship payments. Scholarship awards will be based on the student's equivalent impact on the State Aid Formula. The Department may retain 2.5% of the amount awarded to administer the program. The Department is further directed to monitor private school participation in the program and revoke a private school's participation in the program if it fails to comply with the provisions of the measure. The measure provides for an appeals process.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor

Fiscal Analysis

This bill creates the Hope Scholarship Program Act and would allow certain parents and guardians to request a Hope scholarship. It provides eligibility criteria for students and requirements for the award.

Per SDE: The total cost will be based on how many students apply for the scholarship and therefore is unable to be determined.

The estimated scholarship cost per student: \$3,419-\$5,129.