

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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S. 114 An act relating to improving prekindergarten through grade 12 literacy within the State – Draft 4.1 – As recommended by the House Committee on Education

Bill Summary:

This bill proposes to direct Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Section 2001(f) to address literacy and learning loss for FY22, 23, and 24. This bill creates the Advisory Council on Literacy which shall advise on how to improve and sustain literacy outcomes and operate in FY22, 23 and 24. This bill also appropriates funds for a contractor or contractors that may shift to a limited service position through FY24 to provide technical assistance with the literacy work in this bill.

Fiscal Impact:

This appropriation to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2022 shall be used to assist supervisory unions with implementing evidence-based systems-wide literacy approaches that address learning loss and to provide professional development learning modules for teachers for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024. The Agency shall set aside not more than 2% of the funds to cover the costs of retaining and overseeing the work of the contractor.

- **\$3,060,000 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**
 - **2% set aside for evaluation is \$60,000**

The Agency of Education shall hire a contractor or contractors to provide technical assistance with the literacy work in this bill using these appropriated funds for the FY22, 23, 24. The Agency of Education may shift use of this funding from the contractor or contractors to a limited service position that would expire at the end of fiscal year 2024 within the Agency.

- **\$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 16 public members. The 8 council members who shall serve as ex officio shall not receive per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses, but the other 8 members shall receive per diem compensation and reimbursement 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.

- **Estimated annual cost for Advisory Council on Literacy: \$8,000 per year for a total of \$24,000 for the three fiscal years FY22, 23, 24**

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

- **\$24,000 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 repealed on June 30, 2024.

The Census-Based Funding Advisory Group does not need an appropriation; this is current law and already funded.