

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

One Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • Fax: (802) 828-2483

FISCAL NOTE

Date: April 14, 2021

Prepared by: Breanna Parker

S. 114 An act relating to improving prekindergarten through grade 12 literacy within the State – As passed 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. This bill creates the Advisory Council on Literacy which shall advise on how to improve and sustain literacy outcomes for students in prekindergarten through grade 12. This bill also creates a position, Statewide Literacy Coordinator, in the Agency of Education.

Fiscal Impact:

The Agency of Education shall assist supervisory unions with literacy outcomes using these appropriated funds. The Agency shall set aside more than 2% for the evaluations required by this bill for each fiscal year 2022, 2023, and 2024.

- **Appropriations for Literacy Grant Program: \$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**

The Agency of Education shall hire a contractor with the appropriated funds for the fiscal years 2022, 2023, 2024.

- **Appropriation for the Statewide Literacy Coordinator position: \$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**

As of July 1, 2022 there shall be one full-time, permanent position to serve as the Statewide Literacy Coordinator. The Agency may fill this position with the contractor retained under Sec. 4 of this act.

The Advisory Council on Literacy shall be composed of 16 public members. The 8 council members that are ex officio shall not receive per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses 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. Assuming all Council members attend all meetings, then:

- **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.

- **Appropriations for Advisory Council on Literacy: \$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.