

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22749

This legislation will allow the state department of education (SDE) to approve secondary alternative schools that provide a minimum of 900 hours of instruction time. State law has required 900 hours for grades 9-12 since 1991, although the administrative rule which set the requirement at 900 hours did not change until 1996. However, the approval forms used by SDE were not changed in 1991 (or 1996), and programs have continued to be approved at the 900 hour requirement. This legislation would align state law with this longstanding practice. If this legislation is not successful, SDE will inform school districts as to the 900 hour requirement for grades 9-12 in secondary alternative schools, and will begin enforcing this requirement beginning with applications for the 2014-2015 school year.

FISCAL NOTE

No fiscal impact to the state. There may be a slight fiscal impact to some school districts if the legislation is not passed, for districts that would be required to offer more instructional time in their secondary alternative school.

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