



# State Fiscal Note for Bill Number: 2015-H-5495

**Date of State Budget Office Approval:**

**Date Requested:** Monday, March 09, 2015

**Date Due:** Thursday, March 19, 2015

**Impact on Expenditures**

FY 2015	n/a
FY 2016	n/a
FY 2017	n/a

**Impact on Revenues**

FY 2015	n/a
FY 2016	n/a
FY 2017	n/a

*Explanation by State Budget Office:*

This bill would require a full-time school social worker for every 400 students in each public school in the state of Rhode Island. Eligible social workers are those who hold a valid professional certificate in school social work issued by the 'state department of education'.

*Comments on Sources of Funds:*

Public school employees are paid by the municipality in which the school is located. For the state schools, including Davies, the Met and the School for the Deaf, school personnel is financed with general revenue.

*Summary of Facts and Assumptions:*

It is assumed that the 'state department of education' means the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Currently there are 141,959 students in grades k-12 in public schools in Rhode Island. To achieve a 1:400 ratio, 355 school social workers would be required in all. Some school districts share social workers amongst schools on a rotating basis, but no assessment of social worker presence in relation to the number of students exists, to the knowledge of the Department.

At all three state schools, Davies, the Met and the School for the Deaf, school social workers are already on staff and are in compliance with the ratio provisions of the act, should it pass. As an example, the school social worker at Davies is paid \$75,548 in salary and \$54,050 in benefits for a total of \$129,598 annually.

*Summary of Fiscal Impact:*

There would be no impact to the State for the state schools should this legislation pass, as all three schools have social workers on staff in the proportion dictated by this bill. For municipalities, there would likely be a significant expense, but the extent cannot be determined without an assessment of the existing ratio of social worker per pupil in each district.

Budget Office Signature:

Fiscal Advisor Signature:

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