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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Stewart **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/31/14  
**LAST UPDATED** 02/20/14 **HB** 157/aSfI#1

**SHORT TITLE** School Transportation Training Fund **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Armstrong

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 112, HB 156, HB 169

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Senate Floor Amendment #1

The Senate Floor amended the effective date of HB 157 from July 1, 2015, to July 1, 2014.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 157 creates the “School Transportation Training Fund” in the state treasury to be administered by PED. The fund will consist of payments from school districts and charter schools to be used to fund public school transportation workshops and training services for school districts and charter schools, including supplies and professional development for PED staff. It will also include income from investment of and money otherwise accruing to the fund. Money in the fund is subject to appropriation from the Legislature to PED.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Currently, PED collects the payments for transportation workshops and trainings and has an account set up through a regional education cooperative (REC). Setting up a centralized fund will allow PED to better manage the fees and help better maintain the fund for accounting purposes. In response to House Bill 533 (2013) a duplicate of HB 157, PED reported:

PED’s School Transportation Bureau (STB) administers three major programs: the School Bus Driver Instructor Program, Commercial Drivers License Examiner Program, and the School Bus Inspection Program. These programs are required in order to train and examine new bus drivers throughout the state as well as bus inspectors. They are key components in ensuring a safe and qualified driver workforce among districts and charter schools statewide.

All three of these programs require training to school districts and school bus contractors who want to become certified in each of the respective programs. Each of these trainings is a weeklong training and occurs throughout the year in different regions of the state. Currently, the PED charges \$200 per person to attend each of these trainings.

These funds are used to cover the cost of trainings including equipment, supplies and travel for STB employees. Funds may also be used to pay for professional development of the PED employees to ensure the Department continues to provide high quality training to drivers and inspectors.

At present, the Department does not have an appropriate fund to deposit fees received and as such contracts with an REC to collect funds, schedule the trainings and pay conference costs. While the REC accounts for funds received, these funds are not under the direct control of the Department and the Department’s external auditors have noted that they would like for the Department to receive and deposit fees directly.

**RELATIONSHIP**

House Bill 112 amends school transportation reporting requirements.

House Bill 156 adds fuel price emergencies to the purposes of the Transportation Emergency Fund.

House Bill 169 sets forth procedures and criteria for transportation boundary agreements among school districts.

JA/jl:svb