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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rehm/Louis/Johnson/  
Lente ORIGINAL DATE 2/17/2020 HM 65  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Study Internet Access on School Buses SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Gaussoin

### **ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		See Fiscal Implications				

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 65 requests the Public Education Department (PED) study the feasibility of a public-private partnership to provide Internet access on school buses. The memorial requests the department to present its findings to the Legislative Education Study Committee and the co-chairs of the Legislative Council by November 1, 2020.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Any study involves agency staff and resources to develop the workplan and work group, conduct research, and produce a report. In many cases, the agency can absorb these costs; however studies divert agency staff from other, perhaps equally important, responsibilities.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to news reports (<https://cnn.it/2P1funD>), proponents of Internet access on buses argue it can help overcome the “homework gap” between students with access to the Internet at home and those without. The Pew Research Center says 5 million American households with school-age children lack broadband, and poor children are four times more likely to lack broadband as middle- or high-income families. House Memorial 65 argues the homework gap especially impacts rural and tribal students and contributed to the inequity that already exists in poorer school districts.

### ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would need to assign staff to conduct the study.

HFG/al/rl