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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Swisstack **DATE TYPED** 02/22/05 **HB** 955

SHORT TITLE School District Attendance Policies **SB** _____

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 955 amends Sections 22-8-2 (Definitions) and 22-12-9 (Unexcused Absences and Truancy—Attendance Policies) of the Public School Act. In the first section, the definition of “membership” excludes truants and habitual truants from being withdrawn from the district enrollment, and the district is required to intervene and attempt to keep these students in an educational setting. The section requires each school district to use withdrawal only after “exhausting efforts to keep students in educational settings” and requires documentation of efforts to do so.

Significant Issues

PED states “this bill addresses the seeming inconsistency of a section of the Public School Finance Act that permits disenrollment of students after 10 consecutive absences with the obligation in the Compulsory School Attendance Law to engage in early identification and intervention of students who are truant so that they remain in school.”

The bill supports PED and Governor’s legislative initiatives.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This bill supports dropout and truancy initiatives of PED.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

School districts will have to keep PED apprised of intervention efforts to keep truants and habitual truants in school.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

The Public School Finance Act will conflict with the Compulsory School Attendance Law?

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What benefit accrues to districts to withdrawal truants and habitual truants from school roles?
2. What is the extent of PED's review of district's "exhausting efforts to keep students in educational settings"?

GAC/lg