

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 144

SESSION: 2012 Regular Session

TOPIC: Nonpublic pupil aids; uses of the revenue by recipients

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Overview

School districts are required to provide nonpublic school pupils with textbooks, individualized instructional materials, and standardized tests, all of which must be secular in nature and cannot be used for religious instruction or worship. In addition, a district must provide the same health services to pupils of nonpublic schools as it provides to public school pupils. Nonpublic secondary pupils must also be offered guidance and counseling services by the public secondary schools.

The state reimburses school districts for their costs up to the amount of the statewide average public school qualifying expenditure per pupil times the number of nonpublic school pupils served by each school district. For fiscal year 2012, the reimbursement rates were set at \$81.40 for textbooks, \$58.29 for health services, and \$203.65 for guidance and counseling activities.

A nonpublic school must use nonpublic pupil aid only for the purposes allowed in statute. This bill keeps the nonpublic pupil aid amount unchanged but expands the allowable uses of nonpublic textbook aid to include the purchase of any nonsectarian software, hardware, or other education technology.

- 1 Textbooks.** Makes clear that the calculation of nonpublic pupil aid is still based on the public schools' actual costs of books and instructional materials.
- 2 Software or other educational technology.** Defines "software or other educational technology" to include software programs, applications, hardware, and any other educational technology.
- 3 Textbooks; individualized instructional materials.** Broadens the use of the textbook portion of nonpublic pupil aid to include the purchase of software or other educational technology.
- 4 Use of individualized instructional materials.** Makes clear that software and other educational technology must not be used in religious courses, devotional exercises, or any other religious activity.