

Legislative Analysis



MINIMUM RATIO OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS TO STUDENTS

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4081 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Felicia Brabec
Committee: Health Policy
Revised 7-25-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4081 would amend the Revised School Code to require school districts, intermediate school districts (ISDs), and public school academies (PSAs, or charter schools) to employ or contract for at least one school counselor for every 250 students enrolled in the district, ISD, or PSA. The bill would take effect 90 days after it is enacted.

Proposed MCL 380.1173

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state, and it would create an indeterminate cost increase for certain local school districts, ISDs, and PSAs if they do not currently employ or contract enough school counselors to satisfy the requirement of one counselor for every 250 pupils enrolled. The bill would require districts, ISDs, and PSAs to hire or contract additional counselors until they satisfy this requirement.

For the 2022-23 school year, districts and PSAs averaged one counselor FTE per 604 pupils and ISDs averaged one counselor FTE per 133 pupils. It is estimated that about 3,700 additional counselors would need to be hired statewide to fulfill the bill's requirement. Based on available data for FY 2022-23, the average cost (including salary and benefits) to employ a full-time counselor position is estimated at about \$107,400. The total statewide cost to locals to fulfill the bill's requirement is therefore estimated to be up to \$400.0 million.

The cost to an individual district, ISD, or PSA would depend on its current counselor-to-pupil ratio. Based on the above data for FY 2022-23, out of 888 districts, ISDs, and PSAs, 834 would need to hire additional counselors to satisfy the bill's requirement; 80 would need to hire 20 or more counselors.

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