

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1699
Version:	Introduced
Author:	Representative Morrisette
Date:	February 24
Impact:	FY-10 – FY-14: Potential Impact to Districts FY-11: \$74,400 for Equipment Purchases

Bill Summary

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Nicole Barnes

HB 1699, as introduced, creates the RIGHTTRACK Act, the purpose of which is to calculate each public school student's Body Mass Index (BMI) and to use the information to screen and identify children at risk for poor nutrition. Provisions include a sufficient number of certified staff to provide nutrition instruction, volunteer training for instructors, sufficient school staff or volunteers trained in assessing BMI, training in BMI assessment by the University of Oklahoma Prevention Research Center (OUPRC), annual assessments for students in grades kindergarten through nine beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, creation of an oversight committee, creation of an advisory committee, and by October 31, 2014 a determination of program effectiveness.

Fiscal Analysis

Costs associated with this measure relate to one-time equipment purchases and potential additional personnel at the school district or site level. There is no cost associated with the training components of the bills, as nutrition-instruction training will be provided by volunteer members from the Oklahoma Dietetic Association, and BMI-measurement training will be provided at no charge by the University of Oklahoma Prevention Research Center.

Staff made a number of assumptions when calculating the cost of equipment, including 1) to accurately measure growth and BMI, schools would need both a stadiometer and a digital scale, 2) the ratio of equipment pieces to students in Oklahoma follows a model established by a similar program in Arkansas, 3) prices quoted on equipment will not rise before actual purchase, 4) the number of students in grades K-9 equals approximately 484,279, or 75.11% of the total most recent number of students as reported by the State Department of Education (644,777), and 5) the student population does not increase in future years. Dr. William Moore of the OUPRC quotes a price of \$15 per stadiometer, as manufactured by the state of Arkansas. Digital scales can be purchased for approximately \$35 apiece. If the above assumptions hold true, and Oklahoma requires 1 stadiometer and 1 scale per 325.5 children, districts would require 1,488 scales and 1,488 stadiometers. At \$52,080 for scales and \$22,320 for stadiometers, equipment

costs total \$74,400. As BMIs are not supposed to be measured until FY-11, this cost component will go into effect at that time.

Though volunteers will provide training for purposed described above, the measure requires school districts to have sufficient numbers of certified staff to instruct students in nutritional matters and sufficient staff to measure students' BMIs. Some schools may already have personnel who are capable of absorbing these duties into their schedules, but some schools may have to hire additional personnel to fulfill the measure's requirements. To get a more accurate estimate of total personnel needs, the State Department of Education would need to conduct a district-wide survey.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director