

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1706
Version:	As Introduced
Author:	Representative Derby
Date:	March 6, 2009
Impact:	\$1,412,496

Bill Summary

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Nicole Barnes

HB 1706, as introduced, contains provisions relating to the calculation of the length of a school year and liability insurance coverage for all certified school personnel. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the measure changes the calculation of a school year from days (180) to hours (1,080), requires each school day to consist of eight hours of instruction, modifies a school week to consist of four days of instruction and one day of non-instructional activities, and provides for the substitution of instruction on a Saturday for a regular school day upon approval from the State Board of Education. The measure also creates the Educator Professional Liability Coverage Program, effective July 1, 2010, in which the state provides liability insurance coverage to all full- and part-time certified personnel.

Fiscal Analysis

There are no costs associated with the modification of a school year, as the total hours of instruction will not change. The requirement of eight hours of instruction may impact schools' scheduling processes, but the total hours of instruction in a year will remain the same.

Though the measure mandates the administration of the Educator Professional Liability Coverage Program by the State Department of Education, plan election is optional; teachers may or may not choose to be covered under this plan depending on whether the teacher has other sources of coverage or decides not to for any other reason.

As no precedent has been set with regard to states providing liability insurance for teachers, staff must estimate the cost based on current rates paid by other entities for the same coverage. Other assumptions that are made in this analysis include that 1) the number of potential program enrollees represents the number who obtain coverage (thereby contributing to a maximum cost, though fewer teachers may actually enroll), and 2) the pool is limited to teachers in Oklahoma *only*; in some cases, if a policy is written for Oklahoma but is part of a nationwide umbrella policy, rates may even decline. However, as one cannot estimate the size outside Oklahoma, the cost used is based on rates paid by an organization that only covers Oklahoma teachers. In 2007, staff was quoted \$28 per teacher by one of the state's professional educator associations- therefore, if this cost were multiplied times the current number of certified staff in the state (50,482), the maximum cost amounts to \$1,412,496.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

None.

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed by:

Mark Tygret

House Fiscal Director