

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2673
Version:	FULLPCS1
Request Number:	7288
Author:	Leader Echols
Date:	2/20/2021
Impact:	Consultation Ongoing with State Department of Education

Research Analysis

If a student is enrolled at a school that has received an “F” for the past three years, the proposed committee substitute for HB2673 allows the student’s parent to request a transfer allowance for tuition at a private school.

A transfer allowance may be awarded if the parent has properly requested the allowance, and the student has been accepted at an approved private school. Requests for a transfer allowance made after December 1 will be granted, but funding for the allowance may not be available until the beginning of the next school year.

The measure requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to calculate the transfer allowance for each student, each year. The allowance shall be calculated by multiplying the state aid factor for that year by any applicable student weights. If tuition to a private school is less than this calculated amount, the student shall receive the amount for tuition. The SDE shall calculate the total cost of all transfer allowances for all eligible students and retain that money from State Aid.

The allowance will remain valid until the student graduates, or returns to a public school. It also remains valid if the student transfers to another private school.

Any participating student and parent must:

- Select a private school that has been approved by the State Board of Education
- Request the transfer allowance prior to December 1 of the school year during which the transfer allowance is requested
- Attend the private school throughout the year, unless excused
- Use the transfer allowance only for tuition at the private school

Any participating private school must meet certain standards, including:

- Be accredited by the State Board of Education, or an accrediting association approved by the SBE
- Demonstrate fiscal soundness
- Comply with certain antidiscrimination provisions

Lastly, the measure creates a new funding weight of 1.1 for students enrolled at a school that has received an “F” for the previous three years. The measure also allows a student enrolled in a

resident school that has received an “F” for the past three years to be granted an emergency transfer.

Prepared By: Emily Wendler

Fiscal Analysis

While consultation with the OSDE is ongoing, it is not likely that the measure will result in a negative fiscal impact on state appropriations. However, it is anticipated that there will be a district-level impact with a possible reduced headcount, which cannot be determined.

Additionally, with the new weight of 1.1 for students enrolled at schools that have received an “F” grade for the preceding three years, it is likely that the current allocation of State Aid to the districts may be impacted as well.

Prepared By: Cole Stout

Other Considerations

None.