

FISCAL NOTE

HB 436 - SB 846

February 28, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes the State Board of Education to issue grants to local education agencies (LEAs) for supplemental social worker positions if the LEA meets certain requirements. A qualifying LEA must apply for special hardship funding to be used exclusively for employing school social workers. The grant allotment when combined with BEP funding for social workers must not exceed a ratio of one (1) social worker per 1000 students. Funding for this bill must be specifically provided for in the appropriations act. If applications exceed available funds, the State Board must prioritize the grants to maximize school improvements.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000 Over-Time

Assumption:

- None of the LEAs meet all three requirements at this time; therefore, no LEA would currently be eligible to apply for a supplemental grant for school social workers. To the extent LEAs become eligible for these grants at a later date, state expenditures are estimated to increase. Such increase is dependent upon the number of LEAs becoming eligible, the number of social workers required and the amount of grants awarded. Although the number of such grants cannot be determined, it is estimated that appropriations exceeding \$100,000 annually would be needed.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James W. White, Executive Director