

# Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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## *FISCAL NOTE*

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### **S. 114– An act relating to improving prekindergarten through grade 12 literacy within the State – As Recommended out of the Senate Committee on Education**

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/Senate%20Education/Bills/21-0807/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/W~James%20DesMarais~DR%2021-0807,%20Draft%206.1,%202-25-2021~2-26-2021.pdf>

#### **Bill Summary:**

This bill proposes to continue improving literacy for all students in the State, while recognizing that this a long-term goal. This bill creates a new position, the Statewide Literacy Coordinator, funds the Literacy Grant program, and creates the Advisory Council on Literacy.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

Create one full-time, director level, classified position to serve as the Statewide Literacy Coordinator in the Office of the Secretary at the Agency of Education (AOE).

- **Appropriated: \$150,000 to the AOE from the General Fund for FY2022.**

The Literacy Grant program shall provide professional development opportunities for teachers in methods of teaching literacy. The Agency of Education shall administer the Literacy Grant program and assess the funding need for each application.

- **Appropriated: \$3,000,000 to the AOE from [federal funds] for FY2022.**

Create the Advisory Council on Literacy, which shall be composed of 18 public members. The Council shall not meet more than 8 times per year. Members of the Council shall be entitled to per diem compensation under 32 V.S.A. § 1010. The payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Education. The JFO standard method for calculating compensation and expenses for public members is \$126.25 per diem. Assuming all 18 members attend all 8 meetings, then:

- **Estimated annual cost for the Advisory Council on Literacy: \$18,180 per year.**

The bill includes the following appropriations which adequately covers the estimated costs for the Advisory Council on Literacy:

- **Appropriated: \$10,000 from the general fund to the AOE in FY22, and**
- **Appropriated: \$10,000 in AOE annual budget request to the General Assembly.**