



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 8, 2024

Honorable Phil Olaley
State Representative
509-F Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 49 1413)

Dear Representative Olaley:

This bill would establish Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding for students living in poverty. The bill defines students living in poverty as those enrolled in a public school who live in a family unit directly receiving SNAP or TANF benefits, homeless students, or foster care students. Additionally, it provides that the program weight would be 1.5 with a teacher-student ratio of 1 to 15.

As shown in **Table 1**, Georgia Department of Education data indicates that the bill would have reduced state spending by approximately \$2.5 million had the bill been in effect during Fiscal Year 2024. This amount would fluctuate each year based on the distribution of the student population among existing QBE program weights. This total also assumes that all students would be moved from QBE segments with higher program weights (e.g., Kindergarten, Grades 1-3 Early Intervention Program) into the students living in poverty program. School districts, however, may report student segments in higher earning program weights that currently exist. This amount is based on the eligible student population of 526,684 full-time equivalents (FTEs) that met the students living in poverty program criteria during the state fiscal year 2023 QBE count.

Table 1. The Students Living in Poverty Program QBE Weight Reduces State Costs

	FTEs	Average Funding per FTE	QBE System Earnings
Current Statute	526,684	\$4,538.36 ⁽¹⁾	\$2,390,284,034.63
LC 49 1413	526,684	\$4,533.69	\$2,387,822,323.99
Difference			-\$2,461,710.65

(1) Funding based on a combination of QBE weights tied to the variety of students

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/ahs