



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 26, 2026

Honorable Sandra Scott
State Representative
611-A Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 61 0290)

Dear Representative Scott:

This bill would provide grants under the Quality Basic Education Act to local education agencies (LEAs) for the purpose of supplemental services and instruction for students experiencing homelessness. The bill defines a range of grant purposes, including tutoring, supplemental instruction, additional teacher training, referrals for health services, transportation, school supplies, and others. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) must establish rules and regulations that include criteria for the awards and the collection of data for evaluating the grants.

GaDOE noted that the bill largely mirrors the federal McKinney-Vento (MV) program, under which Georgia received \$4.5 million in FY 2026 to serve approximately 26,953 students (an average of \$167 per student). Current MV funding supports students in 50 LEAs that have identified 150 or more students experiencing homelessness. However, the services and eligible districts provided under the federal grant are more limited than those included in the bill.

Table 1 outlines the estimated funding required under two scenarios, which ranges from \$6.7 million to \$10.0 million depending on the average cost of eligible services per student. The first would maintain the \$167 per-student cost while expanding services to the estimated statewide population of students experiencing homelessness. The estimated homeless student population was determined using information from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the University of Michigan. The second estimate assumes a 50 percent increase in the cost per student to reflect additional services under the bill, including referral services, supplemental instruction, tutoring, and transportation.

Table 1. Cost for Funding Based on Number of Students and Cost

Number of Students	Cost per Student	Total Cost
40,000	\$167	\$6,680,000
40,000	\$251 ¹	\$10,040,000

¹ The cost per student is calculated by adding 50% to the base cost to account for the additional services the bill will provide.

GaDOE estimates it would need approximately \$140,000 in annual administrative costs for an additional grant specialist (salary, benefits, and travel). The position would be responsible for monitoring, technical assistance, and fiscal oversight as required by the bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg S. Griffin".

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Dunn".

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/ay