

Testimony of Paul Schwartz
February 20, 2025
Education, Energy and the Environment
Committee
SB 558 – Fiscal Notes – Family Impact
Statement

My name is Paul Schwartz and I am Region Vice President for National NARFE's (the National Active & Retired Federal Employee's Association)

I support SB 558 and HB 1487 as a critical first step in revising the manner in which fiscal notes are calculated by the Office of Legislative Services.

As currently crafted, fiscal notes simply cannot be relied on to reflect the true nature of the cost of any bill because the fiscal note does NOT reflect the complete cost associated with the bill.

Legislative Services does not have the capability to calculate cost savings and incorporate that calculation into the fiscal note – (you know who does do that? The insurance industry, so it can be done)

Legislative Services simply checks with the Comptroller's office and takes a hard count of lost tax revenue and regurgitates that figure in the fiscal note without factoring in any cost savings over the long term such as impact of reduced population to other states being addressed in a bill.

Factoring in an impact statement as is required by SB 558 and HB 1487 is an important requirement and first step in requiring the Office of Legislative Services to calculate more than just the immediate loss of revenue but as well the long-term impact on the economy.