

## FISCAL NOTE

### Senate Bill 305

Committee: ENACTED

Sponsor: Senator Arthur Orr

Analyst: John Friedenreich

Date: 09/10/2025

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**Senate Bill 305** (Act 2025-257) as enacted establishes the Renewing Alabama's Investment in Student Excellence (RAISE) Program and the non-reverting RAISE Fund in the State Treasury to provide additional funding for public K-12 schools for the purpose of addressing the educational needs of the student population pursuant to the provisions of this act. Pursuant to the provisions of this act, the annual cost of the RAISE Program would be determined based upon the weighted allocations, established in the annual Education Trust Fund appropriations act for that fiscal year, for certain qualifying student groups and the base funding factor. Funding for the RAISE Program is subject to available funding in the RAISE Fund for any fiscal year.

The provisions of this act establishes: (1) the 11-member RAISE Act Review Committee to review progress of the RAISE Program and provide revisions for continuous improvement; and (2) the 15-member RAISE Act Accountability and Implementation Board to monitor the progress of local education agencies to ensure RAISE Funds are spent effectively.

This act will increase the obligations of the State Department of Education to: (1) beginning June 1, 2025, hire a third-party to support audit and development of a uniform application system to be used by local education agencies for planning, budgeting and reporting activities; (2) implement the provisions of this bill, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year; (3) by July 1, 2025, create and publish a RAISE Act guide outlining procedures for local boards to administer the applicable provisions of this act; (4) by January 1, 2027, develop and make available a free professional learning series on the RAISE Program; (5) by July 1, 2030, propose a hearing process to be used by the RAISE Act Accountability and Implementation Board to determine if RAISE Funds are being used adequately to improve student outcomes for identified student groups; and (6) by July 1, 2033, identify LEAs and individual schools that have not made adequate progress in reaching goals of achievement at the end of the five-year period.

Additionally, this act will increase the administrative obligations of local education agencies to comply with the provisions of this act to receive RAISE Program allocations.