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H.B. 178
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 178's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Civil Justice

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Brent and Callender

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- Presumably, public primary and secondary schools generally will comply with the bill's discrimination provisions, with any alleged violations likely occurring infrequently. To the extent that any are named in additional civil suits and found liable under the bill, these entities may be subject to increased litigation costs and damages.

Detailed Analysis

The bill prohibits public K-12 schools and public preschools from discriminating against an individual based on traits associated with their race, including hair texture and protective hair styles, such as braids, locks, and twists. The bill explicitly allows an individual to sue in any court of competent jurisdiction for allegations of discrimination.

To the extent that school districts are named in additional civil suits, they could incur costs related to the adjudication and settlement of a case, which may include attorney fees incurred by the injured party in addition to any damages awarded. The timing and magnitude of such costs is indeterminate, as are any impacts to existing insurance coverage if the schools have such policies in place. The bill will also create minimal administrative costs for schools to update their dress code and policies for grooming as well as any one-time training for staff and personnel.