Department of Planning and Budget 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number:SB786Patron:MulchiBill Title:Nationally Certified School Psychologist Program; established.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Nationally Certified School Psychologist Program and incorporates such program into the existing National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program, collectively referred to as the Programs. The bill also renames the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program Fund as the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program Fund as the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program Fund as the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program fund as the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program and Nationally Certified School Psychologist Program Fund (the Fund) and expands the purpose for which disbursements may be made from the Fund to include the award of incentive grants to school psychologists obtaining national certification from the National Association of School Psychologists consisting of an initial state-funded award of \$5,000 and a subsequent award of \$2,500 each year for the life of the certificate.

Budget Amendment Necessary:YesItems Impacted:124Explanation:Additional funding would be required to provide awards for the National Certified School
Psychologist Program. Additionally, a language amendment would be needed in Item 124 to
amend the existing language for the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward
Program.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education estimates an additional \$2,855,000 general fund would be required in the first year for initial awards and an ongoing cost of approximately \$1,427,500 general fund per year.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

| Agency | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | FY2028 | FY2029 | FY2030 |
|------------------|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 197 (Direct Aid) | \$0 | \$2,855,000 | \$1,427,500 | \$1,427,500 | \$1,427,500 | \$1,427,500 |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | \$0 | \$2,855,000 | \$1,427,500 | \$1,427,500 | \$1,427,500 | \$1,427,500 |

Fiscal Analysis: This bill amends the existing National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward program to add the National Certified School Psychologist program. The Governor's introduced budget, HB1600/SB800, provides \$4,997,500 general fund each year to provide bonuses to teachers and staff that have obtained national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This language could be added, to provide bonuses to school psychologists that have obtained national certification.

The Department of Education (DOE) estimates an initial cost of \$2,855,000 in FY26 to provide initial \$5,000 dollar awards to 571 nationally certified school psychologists. In subsequent years DOE estimates a cost of \$1,427,500 annually to provide ongoing \$2,500 awards. The count of 571 nationally certified school

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psychologists in Virginia was taken from the National Association of School Psychologists state data dashboard, as DOE does not currently collect information from local school divisions on nationally certified school psychologists. The actual number of nationally certified school psychologists working in local school divisions in Virginia may vary from this amount and the actual fiscal impact would depend on the number of nationally certified school division reports to DOE each year, as well as the number of newly certified school psychologists.

Other: This bill is identical to HB2511 as introduced.