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

PUBLISHED: 1/15/2025 4:55 PM REVISED

Bill Number: HB1548 **Patron:** Ware

Bill Title: High school graduation; requires passing score on select questions from U.S. Naturalization,

etc.

Bill Summary: Requires the Board of Education, in establishing high school graduation requirements, to require, except in the case of a high school student whose individualized education program indicates otherwise, each high school student to take and correctly answer at least 70 percent of the questions on a test composed of at least 25 but not more than 50 of the questions on the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test in order to graduate high school with a standard or advanced studies diploma, provided that such student may take such test at any time during grades nine through 12 and as many times during such period as necessary to achieve the minimum 70 percent passing score.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate **Items Impacted:** 117, 119

Explanation: The Board of Education can absorb any cost to update the high school graduation

requirements. If the Department of Education (DOE) is required to develop an assessment for this requirement, there would be agency costs under the state assessment contract and

to manage the requirements of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is

indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: If DOE is required to develop an assessment for this requirement, they anticipate additional cost through the statewide assessment contract of \$532,638 per year. Additionally, DOE would need .25 of an FTE at an annual cost of \$47,908 to manage the requirements of this bill.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
201 (DOE)	\$0	\$580,546	\$580,546	\$580,546	\$580,546	\$580,546
TOTAL	\$0	\$580,546	\$580,546	\$580,546	\$580,546	\$580,546

Fiscal Analysis: If DOE were required to create new testing items related to this requirement for use in local school divisions, there would be state costs. DOE estimates an additional annual cost of \$532,638 general fund to add items as required by this bill to the assessment contract. Additionally, DOE anticipates the need for a coordinator to manage the assessment development, administration, and reporting. Staff would also need to provide technical assistance to school divisions and classroom teachers for professional learning to implement the new assessment and any new content added to courses. DOE estimates a need for .25 of an FTE to

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perform this work at an annual cost of \$47,908 including salary and benefits. This assumes \$25,500 for salary, \$12,408 for benefits, and \$10,000 for technology and travel costs. Any impact to local school divisions to develop and administer tests is indeterminate.

Other: None.