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

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Bill Number: HB1679 **Patron:** Cohen

Bill Title: Standards of Learning assessments; availability in native language for certain English

language learners.

Bill Summary: Requires each Standards of Learning assessment to be made available in the most commonly spoken native language in the Commonwealth other than English to any English language learner who speaks such language natively.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 119

Explanation: This bill would require the Department of Education to contract with the statewide

assessment system vendor to provide tests in the most commonly spoken language other than English, which would increase the cost for the testing contract. Additionally, DOE would

require additional funds to administer the requirements of the bill.

Fiscal Summary: DOE estimates that the additional cost to update the statewide assessment vendor contract to meet the requirements of this bill could be approximately \$5.0 million general fund beginning in FY26. This number is an estimate and is dependent on a number of factors as described below. DOE also estimates that \$47,908 would be required for .25 of a position to support the implementation and ongoing management of the additional assessments.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	FY2030
2 01 (DOE)	\$ 0	\$5,047,908	\$5,047,908	\$5,047,908	\$5,047,908	\$5,047,908
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TOTAL	\$0	\$5,047,908	\$5,047,908	\$5,047,908	\$5,047,908	\$5,047,908

Position Impact:

Agency	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
2 01 (DOE)	0	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
TOTAL	0	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25

Fiscal Analysis: This bill would require the Board of Education and the Department of Education (DOE) to develop Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments in the most commonly spoken language other than English and for local school divisions to make these assessments available to appropriate students.

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In order to provide assessments in a language other than English, DOE would have to contract with the statewide assessment vendor to translate and develop the assessments. DOE is in the beginning of a process to procure a new contract for the entire statewide assessment system and if implemented this change would be built into the new assessment contract. DOE solicited information from potential vendors on costs to provide assessments in languages other than English. DOE received estimates ranging from \$3.7 million to \$8.5 million and DOE estimates that approximately \$5 million general fund a year beginning in FY26 would be the most likely amount. These estimates are based on the cost to translate all grade 3 through high school statewide test into the two most commonly spoken languages in the Commonwealth other than English. Since this bill requires that assessments be translated into only one additional language, the actual cost could be less than this estimate, however vendors were not able to provide a cost per number of languages at this time. This cost estimate does not include the costs for retakes and annual updates, which could cost additional amounts but are indeterminate at this time. The actual cost would be dependent on the actual assessment vendor chosen and the contract that is negotiated.

DOE also anticipates the need for additional staff time to support the implementation and ongoing review of SOL assessments in languages other than English. DOE anticipates the need for .25 FTE at a total estimated cost of \$47,908 for salary, benefits, and technology. This is based on \$25,500 for salary, \$12,408 for benefits, and \$10,000 for technology and travel costs.

Other: This bill is similar to SB753.