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

PUBLISHED: 1/31/2025 9:35 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB1037S1 **Patron:** Pekarsky
Bill Title: School boards; student access to telehealth services; policies.

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Education to include in its model memorandum of understanding between a school board and a community mental health services provider or nationally recognized school-based mental health provider parameters for the provision of mental health teletherapy for students outside of regular school hours and during regular school hours on school property. Directs that any school board may provide school-based mental health teletherapy services any student may schedule and participate in mental health teletherapy services on school property during regular school hours on the same basis as such students are permitted to schedule and participate in school counseling services. Directs that any school board that chooses to provide such services shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, developed by the Department, with the provider and develop and implement policies and guidance for permitting any student to schedule and participate in such services on school property during regular school hours. The bill directs that each school board shall consider developing and implementing policies for permitting any student in the school division to schedule and participate in telehealth services and mental health teletherapy services on school property during regular school hours with parental consent and that such policies shall (i) permit any student to schedule and participate in telehealth and mental health teletherapy services on school property during regular school hours on the same basis as such students are permitted to schedule and participate in school counseling services; (ii) require each school at which such services are provided to designate a location in such school for students to use for such appointments that ensures the privacy and safety of such students and has internet access; and (iii) prohibit any student from being subject to any disciplinary measure or consequence for participating in a telehealth appointment during regular school hours.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None
Explanation: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: See below.

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Education can absorb any work to update the model memorandum of understanding. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Other: None