

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2637S1

Patron: LeVere Bolling

Bill Title: Department of Education; mental health first aid training program.

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to develop and implement a plan to incentivize and facilitate participation in the Commonwealth Mental Health First Aid Program, established pursuant to applicable law, by public school staff and students. As introduced, the bill is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 117

Explanation: The Department of Education would have one-time costs to hire contractors to develop and implement the plan required by this bill.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education estimates \$15,300 in one-time costs for contracted support. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) has existing appropriation that supports mental health first aid training for adults. If DBHDS is required to support the cost of developing and offering additional training for public school students, DBHDS may be able to redirect a portion of its existing funds for that purpose. The initial development and ongoing costs to offer the training are indeterminate at this time.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
201 (DOE)	\$0	\$15,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
720 (DBHDS)	\$0	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate
TOTAL	\$0	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Education (DOE) anticipates that contractors would need to be hired to coordinate with Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to develop and implement the plan required by this bill at a total estimated cost of \$15,300. This assumes 300 hours of work at \$51 an hour. The Commonwealth Mental Health First Aid Program is a training program that is administered by DBHDS that is currently available for adults. In order to make this program available to public school students, DBHDS would have to contract with a vendor to create and provide an alternative type of training program that would be available to both adults and youth. DBHDS currently has dedicated \$600,000 per year for mental health first aid training. It is not clear in the legislation who is responsible for the costs of the expanded training programs in schools, however, currently schools are not charged for the costs of mental health first aid training provided to adults through DBHDS. If DBHDS is responsible for the costs, the existing

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funding could be reprogrammed to meet these requirements, however it would result in fewer trainings provided under the current program as the agency expends nearly all training funds each year. While the total cost of developing and offering the new training is indeterminate and dependent on vendors, the cost of training a new trainer under the existing program is \$1,500, and each 30 person training class costs between \$569 and \$719 per 8 hour session.

Other: This bill is a companion to SB1377.