

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB1293 ER

Patron: Stanley

Bill Title: Autism spectrum disorder; school board employees professional development and continuing education.

Bill Summary: Directs the Board of Education to provide guidance on high-quality professional development for instructional personnel and school board employees whose duties include regular contact with students on communicating with and supporting students with autism spectrum disorder. The bill also directs local school boards to provide annual optional high-quality professional development programming for instructional personnel and school board employees on communicating with and supporting students with autism spectrum disorder that is reflective of the guidance from the Board of Education. Any instructional personnel or employee who completes such a program shall be eligible for professional development points toward the renewal of their license.

The bill also instructs each licensing board within the Department of Health Professions to recommend that each individual who is registered, certified, licensed, or issued a multistate licensure privilege by such licensing board and whose duties involve direct contact with children complete continuing education on communicating with children with autism spectrum disorder. Each licensing board may include specific continuing education programs as part of their recommendation.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: n/a

Explanation: Any fiscal impacts resulting from this bill are minimal and can be absorbed within existing resources. The bill does not require that language updates be made to the proposed Appropriation Act.

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation is expected to have a minimal impact on the Department of Education that will need to be absorbed as part of existing resources. The proposed legislation is not expected to create new expenditures on the part of the Department of Health Professions. Any impacts to local school divisions are indeterminate.

Fiscal Analysis: This legislation requires that the Board of Education develop guidance for professional development that can be utilized by local school divisions regarding communicating with and supporting students with autism spectrum disorder. The Department of Education (DOE) estimates that the process of developing such guidance will result in a one-time cost of \$12,935, which is absorbable as part of current agency operations. Any impact to local school divisions to provide and implement such professional development opportunities is indeterminate at this time.

The bill also requires each health regulatory board in the Department of Health Professions to recommend that licensees whose duties involve direct contact with children complete optional continuing education

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programming related to communicating with children with autism spectrum disorder. If desired, health regulatory boards may compile or publish a list of programs that may help a licensee respond to this recommendation; however, this bill does not necessitate that the boards do so. The Department of Health Professions reports that drafting and publishing recommendations on behalf of each health regulatory board that align with the provisions of this bill can be absorbed as part of existing resources.

Other: n/a