

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB138 **Patron:** Simonds
Bill Title: Public high schools; personnel; career coach required

Bill Summary: Requires each school board to employ at least one career coach in each public high school in the local school division whose duties shall include assisting students with securing internships, externships, and credentialing opportunities as required by the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, providing students with information on apprenticeship programs, and connecting students to career opportunities. The bill provides that each such individual shall work under the direction of school counselors to assist with direct counseling, as such term is defined in relevant law, relating to college and career readiness. The bill also provides that each such individual shall be employed in addition to and not as a replacement for the required school counselor positions, specialized student support positions, or support services positions.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 125

Explanation: This bill establishes a new staffing standard under Standard 2 of the Standards of Quality, which drives additional state funding under Direct Aid to Public Education.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education (DOE) estimates an additional \$17.5 million general fund in FY27 and in FY28 to support the state share of the staffing standard. Any additional cost in out years depends on the Direct Aid to Public Education budget as rebenchmarked for future biennia; however, for the purpose of this fiscal impact statement, \$17.5 million is carried into the out years.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
197 (Direct Aid)	\$0	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000
TOTAL	\$0	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000

Fiscal Analysis: This bill establishes a new staffing standard under Standard 2 of the Standards of Quality, requiring one career coach to be hired in each public high school. DOE estimates an additional \$17.5 million general fund in FY27 and in FY28 to support the state share of the staffing standard.

Any additional state cost in outgoing years to support this staffing standard is indeterminate and would be based on the Direct Aid to Public Education budget as rebenchmarked for future biennia. For the purpose of this fiscal impact statement, \$17.5 million is carried into the out years.

Local school divisions would have to provide the local share required to match any additional state funds received based on each division's local composite index. The estimated additional required local effort for

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these additional state funds would be approximately \$12.8 million each year. The actual fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate at this time, as divisions may already employ this position with local funds.

Other: None