

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB131

Patron: Simon

Bill Title: Public institutions of higher education; reasonable accommodations for the religious beliefs and practices of individual students.

Bill Summary: Requires each public institution of higher education to provide reasonable accommodations, as defined in the bill, for the religious beliefs and practices of individual students with regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments and to provide and describe in the institution's student handbook or an equivalent document and in the institution's faculty handbook or an equivalent document a grievance procedure for any student to seek redress when the student believes that he has been unreasonably denied such reasonable accommodations for his religious beliefs and practices.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: This bill may have a minimal indeterminate fiscal impact on public institutions of higher education. It is expected that institutions would absorb this impact.

Fiscal Summary: Some responding public institutions of higher education indicate this bill would result in a mild fiscal impact due to administrative costs. These administrative costs may be incurred from updating application systems, updating training materials, and reviewing current policies. Several responding institutions indicated there would be no fiscal impact due to this bill.

Other: This fiscal impact statement is preliminary and based on feedback received from public institutions of higher education as of the date of publication.