

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB263

**Patron:** Simonds

**Bill Title:** Superintendent of Public Instruction; employment of certified school library specialists.

**Bill Summary:** Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to employ in the Department of Education at least one certified school library specialist who shall have several duties enumerated in the bill, including (i) providing leadership and technical assistance with the implementation and use of information literacy skills to school divisions, Department staff, and other stakeholders to support student achievement; (ii) directing the implementation of state and national school library standards and consulting with and providing technical assistance to local school divisions relating to such standards; (iii) collaborating on various grants and other initiatives that promote student literacy through school library programs throughout the Commonwealth; (iv) supporting student learning through instructional programs in which students are required to demonstrate information literacy, digital literacy and fluency, and effective use of technology and instructional programs that incorporate science, technology, engineering, and math learning; and (v) providing the Department, the Board of Education, the General Assembly, and school boards with support relating to student learning through the use of school library standards and library resources.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**Items Impacted:** 117

**Explanation:** The Department of Education would require additional funding to support the position required by this bill.

**Fiscal Summary:** The Department of Education anticipates the need for one position at an estimated cost of \$147,853 general fund per year including salary, benefits, and technology.

**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

| <u>Agency</u> | <u>FY2026</u> | <u>FY2027</u>    | <u>FY2028</u>    | <u>FY2029</u>    | <u>FY2030</u>    | <u>FY2031</u>    |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 201 (DOE)     | \$0           | \$147,853        | \$147,853        | \$147,853        | \$147,853        | \$147,853        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$0</b>    | <b>\$147,853</b> | <b>\$147,853</b> | <b>\$147,853</b> | <b>\$147,853</b> | <b>\$147,853</b> |

**Position Impact:**

| <u>Agency</u> | <u>FY2026</u> | <u>FY2027</u> | <u>FY2028</u> | <u>FY2029</u> | <u>FY2030</u> | <u>FY2031</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 201 (DOE)     | 0             | 1             | 1             | 1             | 1             | 1             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>0</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>1</b>      |

**Fiscal Analysis:** This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to employ a certified school library specialist. DOE does not currently have funding available to support this position and would require additional

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state support at an estimated cost of 147,853 general fund per year beginning in FY27, including salary, technology and benefits.

**Other:** This bill is similar to SB110.