

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB957

Patron: Guzman

Bill Title: Department of Education; anonymous student bullying tip line established.

Bill Summary: Requires the Department of Education to develop or adopt and make available to each public elementary or secondary school student in the Commonwealth an anonymous student bullying tip line that consists of an online platform and a toll-free telephone number that any such student can use to make an anonymous report of an incident involving the bullying or cyberbullying of a public elementary or secondary school student and from which qualified and trained employees or contractors of the Department can analyze reports and communicate with such individuals or entities as they deem appropriate to support the student victim.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 123

Explanation: The Department of Education will require additional funding to support the implementation and ongoing work related to the required platform and tip line.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education (DOE) anticipates the need for 3 additional positions at an estimated state cost of \$462,203 general fund per year beginning in FY27. DOE also estimates one time start up costs of \$20,000 general fund in FY27.

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	\$482,303	\$462,303	\$462,303	\$462,303	\$462,303
TOTAL	\$0	\$482,303	\$462,303	\$462,303	\$462,303	\$462,303

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	3	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	0	3	3	3	3	3

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop and adopt an anonymous student bullying tip line, with both an online platform and phone number, that is available to all students in Virginia. DOE estimates that there will be one time start up costs related to system set up, infrastructure development, and training at a cost of \$20,000 general fund in FY27.

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In addition to maintaining the system and data related to reports, the bill also requires trained employees or contractors of DOE to analyze reports and communicate with other entities regarding these reports to support students. DOE does not currently have staff available to complete this work. DOE anticipates the need for 3 additional positions at an estimated cost of \$462,303 general fund per year beginning in FY27 including salary, benefits, and technology.

Other: None