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

PUBLISHED: 2/2/2026 11:30 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB53 **Patron:** Cole, J.G.
Bill Title: Student bullying; adjusts definition, characteristics of victim.

Bill Summary: Adjusts the definition of ''bullying'' in the context of public education to specify that the real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim includes such a power imbalance on the basis of the membership of the victim in a group that is protected from discrimination pursuant to the Virginia Human Rights Act.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None
Explanation: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact as a result of the provisions of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: See below.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
None	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Fiscal Analysis: This bill makes changes to the definition of bullying. The Department of Education indicates there is no anticipated state fiscal impact to update definitions or revise any guidelines. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Other: None.