

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB996

Patron: Seibold

Bill Title: Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services; Department of Education; Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition Program.

Bill Summary: Directs the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to develop and implement a plan to expand the Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition (PERT) Program to increase the number of students assisted in the transition from high school to postsecondary programs. The bill requires such plan to equip local community services boards with the resources to assist an increased number of students in such transition, publish online resources about the transition process, and develop an online dashboard to provide information about possible postsecondary education programs.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: n/a

Explanation: While it is expected that plan development can be absorbed, the cost of plan implementation is indeterminate and may be subject to available resources.

Fiscal Summary: It is expected that any impacts associated with the development of a plan, as outlined in the bill, can be absorbed by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services and/or Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center. Given that the scope of the plan is yet to be determined, any impacts associated with implementation of the plan are indeterminate and may be subject to available appropriation.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to develop and implement a plan to expand the Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition (PERT) program. The PERT program is a short-term residential program at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) that offers vocational training and counseling to postsecondary students with disabilities.

It is expected that any cost or workload impacts associated with the development of a plan to expand the PERT program can be absorbed by existing staff at DARS and/or WWRC. The bill does not clarify the extent to which the program should be expanded, nor the timeframe over which such expansion should take place. Expansion of the program may lead to additional staffing costs, program administration costs, or capital construction costs at the WWRC facilities which currently house the program; however, the extent of such costs is indeterminate and may be subject to available appropriation. Any implementation costs to the Department of Education, community services boards, or other stakeholders defined in the bill are also indeterminate.

Other: n/a