

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1278

Patron: Reaser

Bill Title: Standards of Quality; school board policies; communication and language accessibility for limited English proficient parents; requirements; report.

Bill Summary: Requires each school board to develop, implement, and post in a publicly accessible location on its website a language access plan consisting of policies and procedures designed to ensure meaningful communication with and informational accessibility for limited English proficient (LEP) parents, as that term is defined in the bill. The bill directs each school board to annually submit to the Department of Education (the Department) a report on its activities relating to satisfying the requirements set forth in the bill. Finally, the bill (i) directs the Department to annually post and maintain in a publicly accessible location on its website each such annual report submitted by a school board; (ii) permits the Department to adopt such policies and procedures as it deems necessary for monitoring and enforcing each school board's compliance with the provisions of the section; (iii) directs the Department to develop and make available to each school board by September 1, 2026, guidance on the development and implementation of language access plans in accordance with the provisions of the bill; and (iv) directs the Department to designate one or more staff members to provide direct technical assistance and compliance support to school boards in implementing the provisions of the bill by the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year. The provisions of the bill requiring each school board to develop, implement, and annually submit to the Department a report on such language access plan; directing the Department to annually post on its website each report submitted by a school board; and permitting the Department to adopt policies and procedures for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 123

Explanation: The Department of Education would require funding for an additional position to support the implementation and ongoing support requirements of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education anticipates the need for one additional position at a total cost of \$154,101 general fund per year beginning in FY27 to support the implementation of the provisions of the bill and the provision of ongoing technical assistance and support to local school divisions.

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	\$154,101	\$154,101	\$154,101	\$154,101	\$154,101
TOTAL	\$0	\$154,101	\$154,101	\$154,101	\$154,101	\$154,101

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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
TOTAL	0	1	1	1	1	1

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires local school divisions to develop and implement language access plans to ensure meaningful communication and information accessibility for parents with limited English proficiency.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop and make available for school divisions model policies related to these plans and to provide technical assistance for implementation. The bill also requires DOE to designate a staff member to provide direct technical assistance for local school divisions including responsibilities such as providing guidance and consultation; responding to inquiries on compliance; developing model tools, templates and best practices; and coordinating efforts with existing DOE initiatives. DOE does not currently have staff available to support the initial implementation or ongoing work to support school divisions with language access plans and would require an additional position. DOE estimates a total cost of \$154,101 general fund per year beginning in FY27 including salary, benefits and technology to support this work.

Any impact to local school divisions to implement the language access plans as required by this bill is indeterminate.

Other: This bill is identical to SB685 as introduced.