

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

PUBLISHED: 2/4/2026 8:03 PM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB724

Patron: Head

Bill Title: High school graduation requirements and methods; application to entering ninth-grade cohorts; retroactive changes prohibited; public guidance.

Bill Summary: Provides that, except in the case of certain individual or local elections to the contrary, no change adopted by the Board of Education or the Department of Education to any graduation requirement or approved method, defined in the bill as any Board-approved means, pathway, process, assessment, performance task, work-based learning option, set of criteria, or cut score by which a student may demonstrate completion of or proficiency in any graduation requirement, including any verified credit requirement, shall apply to any student who has already entered the ninth grade prior to the effective date of such change. The bill is applicable beginning with students who enter the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2027.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 117

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

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education estimates a cost of \$154,101 general fund in FY27 to support a position to meet the requirements of this bill.

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

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: The Department of Education anticipates the need for an additional position to coordinate initial full analysis to update existing policies, guidance documents, calculations, scheduling, assessments, data collection, and reporting to ensure alignment. The bill will require ongoing work and yearly updates to monitor and communicate any changes that may impact graduation requirements to include the methods of accreditation, accountability, and measures of high school performance. DOE estimates a total cost of \$154,101 general fund beginning in FY27 including salary, benefits, and technology.

Other: This bill is identical to HB1283 as introduced.