

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1023

Patron: Walker

Bill Title: Part-time or adjunct instructors in public schools; locally awarded subject matter expert credentials; career and technical education subjects or courses.

Bill Summary: Establishes, enumerates criteria for, and permits a division superintendent or a comprehensive community college to issue a locally awarded subject matter expert teaching credential, valid for a period of one year, to any individual who demonstrates expertise in content or subject matter area relating to career and technical education in order for such individual to provide instruction or coursework in one career and technical education course per semester in grades six through 12 at any public school in the Commonwealth or comprehensive community college in the Commonwealth, including dual enrollment or concurrent enrollment courses. The bill delineates the criteria for issuance of such locally awarded subject matter expert credential. The bill also contains several provisions relating to the employment of individuals under a locally awarded subject matter expert credential, including (i) permitting any school division or institution of higher education to hire any such individual as a part-time or adjunct instructor to teach a career and technical education subject or course; (ii) requiring any such individual to be subject to a background clearance check and the fingerprinting and criminal history records check requirements required as a condition of employment of any applicant who is offered or accepts employment at a school division pursuant to applicable law; (iii) requiring each employing school board to assign an individual employed by such school board as a mentor to supervise any individual issued a locally awarded subject matter expert credential; and (iv) permitting any division superintendent to renew an individual's locally awarded subject matter expert credential for a period not to exceed one additional year, provided that such individual receives satisfactory performance evaluations. Finally, the bill requires each school board to annually report to the Department of Education the number of locally awarded subject matter expert credentials issued pursuant to the provisions of the bill.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 117

Explanation: The Department of Education would require additional funding to establish the microcredentials required to award the locally awarded subject matter expert credentials established by the bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education estimates a cost of \$241,604 general fund per year and one position to support the establishment and ongoing administration of microcredentials.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
201 (DOE)	\$0	\$241,604	\$241,604	\$241,604	\$241,604	\$241,604
TOTAL	\$0	\$241,604	\$241,604	\$241,604	\$241,604	\$241,604

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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 establishes a locally awarded subject matter expert credential for individuals to teach career and technical education courses. One of the requirements for this credential to be awarded is proof of the completion of two microcredentials, established and administered by the Department of Education (DOE), in the unique learning needs of special education students and in classroom management and lesson planning.

DOE does not currently offer these microcredentials. Based on experience with the Reading Specialist microcredential DOE currently offers, DOE anticipates that, in order to establish and administer these microcredentials, additional funding will be required. DOE estimates a cost of \$100,000 general fund beginning in FY27 to design the microcredentials and host them on a platform available for interested individuals. DOE would also require an additional position to assist with designing and ongoing management of the credentials. DOE estimates a total cost of \$141,604 general fund per year beginning in FY27 including salary, benefits, and technology.

Any impact to local school divisions to award local awarded subject matter expert credentials is indeterminate.

Other: None