

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

It is anticipated that DWDA will require general fund support to carry out the requirements of this bill. The bill assigns DWDA new administrative responsibilities that expand the agency’s operational role beyond current activities and cannot be supported with existing federally restricted funding sources. The agency is primarily funded through restricted federal sources, and the general fund appropriation in its base is dedicated to pass-through funding and the registered apprenticeship program, leaving no discretionary funding available to absorb new administrative duties.

It is anticipated that administration of the new accreditation pathway would require a program coordinator position, estimated at \$90,000 annually, to manage accreditation standards and regulations, oversee accreditation determinations, coordinate with partner agencies, and administer ongoing program operations. A data analyst position, estimated at up to \$140,000 annually, would support required reporting and transparency functions, including receipt, validation, aggregation, and publication of outcome data, as well as preparation of procedures, forms, and written guidance associated with funding alignment. In addition, the bill’s data collection and publication requirements would result in ongoing information technology costs to support data handling and public reporting; the magnitude of these costs cannot be determined at this time.

If the intent of this bill is for DWDA to review and reconfigure the current workforce development training system, DWDA anticipates requiring staffing and information technology resources beyond those identified above. Under this scenario, DWDA would develop accrediting directed at uniformity and standards. To do this DWDA indicates that the agency would have to first identify each non-degree program, which it has been unable to do. Once identified, each program would be reviewed to ensure the program meets industry and labor standards, leads to an industry recognized certificate, and ultimately, to employment. After gathering and assessing all of this data, DWDA would develop an accreditation system. Additionally, DWDA indicates that the agency may be required to integrate federal Workforce Pell Grant criteria and standards into the accreditation criteria or minimum standards the agency develops. DWDA indicates that to support accreditation workflows, provider interaction, data collection, and administrative tracking, DWDA would require staffing and information technology resources, beyond those previously identified above.

Component	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
Project IT Coordinator		\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Program Support Position		\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Policy / Research Analyst		\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Subtotal – Staffing		\$370,000	\$370,000	\$370,000	\$370,000	\$370,000
IT enhancements		\$494,000	\$310,000	\$310,000	\$310,000	\$310,000
TOTAL		\$864,000	\$680,000	\$680,000	\$680,000	\$680,000

Table 1: Agency-Identified Cost Estimates for Elements Beyond the Bill’s Requirements

The agency would rely on existing workforce platforms and add functional modules. Staffing associated with this approach includes a project coordinator position estimated at up to \$90,000 annually to manage system configuration and integration activities, a program support position estimated at up to \$140,000 annually to support provider interaction and system use, and a policy and research analyst position estimated at up to

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\$140,000 annually to support broader program alignment and analytical activities. The approach also includes one-time information technology module implementation costs totaling approximately \$184,000, as well as ongoing annual system operation and maintenance costs estimated at approximately \$310,000. It is anticipated that SCHEV and DOE can absorb any impact that may result from this bill.

Other: HB551 and SB737 are companions.