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

PUBLISHED: 2/9/2026 1:25 PM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB653H1 **Patron:** Kent
Bill Title: Excused student absences for visitation of immediate family members; active duty military; scheduled for deployment, on leave from deployment, or returning from deployment outside the United States.

Bill Summary: Provides five excused absences to any student whose immediate family member is active duty military and has received orders for, is on leave from, or has recently returned from deployment outside the United States in connection with such leave or deployment. The bill directs the Board of Education to adopt regulations to provide that no excused absence granted pursuant to this bill shall be counted towards the student's total absences for the purposes of calculating chronic absenteeism or any other attendance-based indicator used in the state accountability system for public schools.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 121
Explanation: The Department of Education would require additional one time support to update systems to implement this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education estimates a one time cost of $30,480 general fund in FY27 to support contract staff to implement the bill.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
201 (DOE)	$0	$30,480	$0	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL	**$0**	**$30,480**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires that the excused absences provided in this bill are not counted in calculations of chronic absenteeism as used in the state accountability system. The Department of Education (DOE) currently uses the federal definition of chronic absenteeism that aligns to the state's reporting in one cohesive system. This bill would require a new metric and new system and reporting to exclude these students. DOE estimates a one time cost of $30,480 general fund in FY27 to support wage and contract work to update these systems.

Other: None