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

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Bill Number: SB724S1 **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, in the event that the Board of Education establishes or modifies any graduation requirements or diploma pathways, the board shall: prior to the beginning of the first school year of implementation, post in a publicly accessible location on its website notice of and up-to-date guidance materials on such graduation requirements or diploma pathways that specify the date or school year of implementation; only apply such new or modified graduation requirements or diploma pathways to students who enter ninth grade at the beginning of or after the first school year of implementation of such new or modified graduation requirements or diploma pathways; and ensure that any student who entered ninth grade prior to the first school year of implementation of such new or modified graduation requirements or diploma pathways is (i) not required to complete any such graduation requirements or diploma pathways in order to satisfy verified credit requirements for graduation, (ii) permitted to satisfy the verified credit requirements for graduation through the completion of any graduation requirements or diploma pathways that were in effect at the time such student entered ninth grade; and (iii) permitted, at the request of such student, to complete any such graduation requirements or diploma pathways without restricting, limiting, or invalidating such student's ability to complete any graduation requirements or diploma pathways that were in effect at the time he entered ninth grade. The bill provides that these requirements shall apply to students who enter ninth grade on or after the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year. Finally, the bill directs the Board to amend regulation pursuant to this bill by July 1, 2027.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None
Explanation: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Education can absorb any work to update regulations pursuant to the requirements of this bill.

Other: This bill is similar to HB1283.