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

PUBLISHED: 2/23/2026 10:09 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB705S1 **Patron:** Hayes
Bill Title: Board of Education; programs and courses of instruction; water safety instruction for elementary school students required; guidelines.

Bill Summary: Requires the Board of Education to develop and make available to each school board by September 1, 2026, guidelines on and each school board to provide as a part of any physical or health education instruction provided to elementary school students beginning no later than the 2027-2028 school year, a program of instruction on water safety that includes instruction on (i) awareness of water conditions, (ii) safe behaviors in and around the water, and (iii) preventing and reducing the risk of drowning and the risk of injury.

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

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
None	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Education can absorb any impact to develop guidelines on a program of instruction on water safety. Any impact to local school divisions to provide instruction is indeterminate.

The Department of Education notes that there are a number of bills that require the Department to develop new guidelines or resources. While the work of each individual bill may be absorbed by existing staff, if several of these bills are adopted during the 2026 session, additional resources may be required.

Other: This version is identical to SB151 as passed the Senate.