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

PUBLISHED: 3/6/2026 10:25 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB211ER **Patron:** Gardner
Bill Title: Head Start State Collaboration Office; maximize access to Head Start programs for eligible families.

Bill Summary: Declares it the goal of the Commonwealth to maximize the availability of evidence-based Head Start and Early Head Start programs to eligible families in the Commonwealth. The bill requires, in furtherance of such goal, the Head Start State Collaboration Office at the Department of Education, no later than December 1, 2026, to develop and recommend to the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education for endorsement a report summarizing the state of Head State and Early Head Start in the Commonwealth. The bill requires such report to address: trends in funding, parent demand, enrollment and costs per child pre-COVID-19 to the present; barriers to maximization of Head Start funding and slots; strengths and challenges in fiscal sustainability for Head Start grant recipients; trends in performance, quality improvement, and impact; and the Commonwealth's and local grant recipients' readiness to respond to changes in the federal funding context.

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

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Education could absorb one-time costs to develop the summary report as required by the bill.

Other: None