

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

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**PUBLISHED: 3/31/2026 10:10 AM**

**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB859ER

**Patron:** Cousins

**Bill Title:** Department of Education; Farm to School Program Task Force; membership requirements.

**Bill Summary:** Amends the membership requirements of the Farm to School Program Task Force (the Task Force) established in accordance with applicable law by requiring the membership to include (i) one member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules after consideration of the recommendation of the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Health; (ii) one member of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates after consideration of the recommendation of the Chair of the House Committee on Education; and (iii) at least four members to be appointed by the Department of Education, including at least one school board member, one representative of the Department of General Services involved in procurement, one representative of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and one farmer or producer in the Commonwealth who sells only the farm or agricultural products produced or grown by him.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**Items Impacted:** N/A

**Explanation:** See below

**Fiscal Summary:** This bill makes changes to the membership of the existing Farm to School Program Task Force. There is no fiscal impact as a result of these membership changes.

The Department of Education (DOE) notes that this task force was previously supported at DOE by federal discretionary funding that is no longer available to DOE. Therefore, DOE does not have resources in its current budget to support any work of this task force. Depending on any work required of the task force, DOE may require additional funding and/or positions to support that work.

**Other:** None.