

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB181

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Feggans

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: School counselors; decreases public school staffing ratios.

5. Summary: Decreases from one to 325 to one to 250 the ratio of full-time equivalent school counselors required to be employed by each local school board per student enrolled in the local school division.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 125.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would increase the number of school counselors funded by the Standards of Quality from one per 325 students to one per 250 students. The Department of Education estimates that \$62.7 million general fund is required in FY25 and \$63.2 million general fund is required in FY26 to support the state share of the staffing standard. Any additional state cost in outgoing years is indeterminate and would be based on the Direct Aid to Public Education budget as rebenchmarked for future biennia.

Local school divisions would have to provide the local share required to match any additional state funds received based on each division's local composite index. The actual fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Local school divisions, Department of Education

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to SB127.