

Department of Planning and Budget

2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2021

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

2. Patron Bell

3. Committee Education

4. Title Elementary school teachers; planning time.

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill directs school boards to ensure that all elementary school teachers are provided at least one unencumbered planning period during the students' school week. The Commonwealth will bear the cost of the planning period, as provided in the appropriation act.

6. Fiscal Impact (See Comments 8.)

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 147, Direct Aid to Public Education.

8. Fiscal implications: The provisions of the bill result in a cost to localities because of the mandated planning periods. The amount of planning time for each regular school week is not defined. Assuming that planning time of 3 hours (180 minutes) is provided in each week, the state cost to provide planning time has been approached in two ways:

1. Using a methodology developed in the mid-1990's, planning time can be provided through the use of resource teachers, at a ratio of one resource teacher for each ten elementary school teachers. To estimate costs, the number of K-5 teachers in FY2004 was determined for each school division, and these figures were divided by ten in order to determine the number of resource teachers needed. The number of resource teachers was then multiplied by the average salary and benefit costs for elementary teachers (*adjusted for the cost of competing*). For FY2004, the estimated total cost is over \$158 million, with the state share at approximately \$88 million.
2. In an alternative methodology, also formulated in the mid-1990's, address the use of teacher aides to 'free up' elementary school teachers for planning time. It was assumed that, in a five and one-half hour school day, one teaching aide could 'take over' for a teacher eleven times per day for a thirty minute period. For FY04, the total number of K-5 funded teachers in the Governor's introduced budget is 36,539. If the total figure of 36,539 is divided by eleven, then the number of required aide positions would be 3,322. This figure of 3,322 is then multiplied by the prevailing salary and fringe benefit cost to derive a total cost of approximately \$55 million per year. The 55 percent state share of this cost is estimated at \$30 million.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: local school divisions, Department of Education

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: SB842 is similar.

Date: 01/ 15/03/acd

Document: H: \bos\k12legislation \2003session \completedbills \HB2021.doc.

cc: Secretary of Education
Secretary of Finance