

## Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** HB577 ER

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron** Nixon

**3. Committee** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title** Certain restrictions on reimbursement and placements of children in residential facilities.

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

Requires all school divisions to provide early childhood education programs for four-year-olds and five-year-olds who are not eligible to attend kindergarten or at-risk early childhood education programs and whose parents voluntarily wish to enroll them in such programs. These mandated early childhood education programs must be coordinated with the current at-risk early childhood programs, be consistent with the Department of Education's (DOE) guidelines for early childhood education, and meet the standards established by the Board of Education. The Board of Education is required to promulgate regulations to implement the orderly phase-in of the required programs with the current voluntary programs for at-risk four-year-olds and at-risk five-year-olds who are not eligible to attend kindergarten. An enactment clause provides that the implementation and funding of the required public school early childhood education programs will be as set forth in the appropriation act. The grants for the at-risk programs may continue to be funded in public schools or other local agencies; however, the Standards of Quality funding of early childhood education will only be provided to public schools.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** See Item 8.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** It is anticipated that this legislation will have no state fiscal impact. This bill strengthens facilities oversight, but the additional DOE requirements can be absorbed by the federal program monitoring staff at DOE currently involved with the CORE group.

The Department of Social Services has also indicated that it does not foresee any fiscal impact resulting from the passage of this legislation.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Board of Education, Department of Social Services.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 3/22/06 / SHD

**Document:** G:\FIS\2006 Session\HB577ER.DOC