

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** HB2851

|                        |  |                                     |                                    |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>House of Origin</b> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Enrolled  |

**2. Patron** Moran

**3. Committee** Education

**4. Title** Board of Education; Children's Services Ombudsman.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** Directs the Board of Education to appoint for each local school division a Children's Services Ombudsman as a resource for parents of special needs children, for the purpose of resolving and mediating complaints regarding any activity, practice, policy, or procedure of any program operated by a local school board affecting the health, safety, welfare, or rights of any school-age special needs child. The bill also contains an exemption from the Freedom of Information Act for investigations conducted by the Ombudsmen.

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

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** Yes.

**8. Fiscal implications:** This legislation requires that a Children's Services Ombudsman be assigned to each of the Commonwealth's 132 school divisions to serve as a resource for parents of special needs children. Currently, no such position exists. If the intent of this legislation is for the state to fund the entire cost of this proposal, the general fund cost is estimated at **\$12.8 million** for FY 2008. This estimate assumes a prevailing annual salary cost of \$65,000 and fringe benefit costs of \$19,558 per position. In addition, an estimate of administrative costs for each position was budgeted using a factor of 15 percent of the total position cost, or approximately \$12,700. This amount would also be used to cover transportation costs associated with each position.

This estimate also assumes that the Ombudsmen would not be hired before July 1, 2007 so no cost estimate was calculated for FY 2007.

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

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

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 1/17/07 / SHD

**Document:** G:\FIS\2007 Session\HB2851.DOC