

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2224

House of Origin	<u> X </u>	Introduced	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u> </u>	In Committee	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Knight

3. Committee:

4. Title: Braille; certification of instructors.

5. Summary: Braille; certification of instructors. Requires the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, together with the Department of Education, to promulgate regulations for the certification of individuals providing Braille instruction in the Commonwealth. This bill provides that such regulations shall include a requirement that all individuals providing Braille instruction be certified as having passed the National Literary Braille Competency Test by July 1, 2011.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: The development and administration of this legislation may result in additional administrative expenses for the Department of Education and/or the Department of Blind and Vision Impaired but any increase in expenses can be absorbed within current budget.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

8. Fiscal Implications: The National Literary Braille Competency Test is currently administered by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board. Current cost for registering and taking the certification test is \$250 per test taker. The test is currently administered once per year in Washington D.C. In order to remain certified Braille teachers must retake the certification test every five years.

Currently there are approximately 140 Braille teachers in the public school system (K-12 only), an additional 25 Braille teachers working at the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, and an unknown number of Braille teachers working at private K-12 schools, public and private universities, and private organizations. Travel expenses to Washington D.C. would also be incurred by test takers.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

10. Technical Amendment Necessary:

11. Other Comments: Given the cost of the test, the cost of travel to take the test, and the infrequency of the administration of the test mandating this certification may create a barrier to entry and a lack of qualified Braille instructors in the Commonwealth.

Date: 1/20/2009 dpb

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