

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB738

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

2. Patron: Newman

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Establishment of virtual school programs

5. Summary: Encourages the development of virtual school programs around the Commonwealth. Virtual schools will use online providers that enter into a contract with a local school division. Students will utilize technology to learn full-time through a distance learning environment. Virtual schools must use the services of teachers licensed by the Board of Education (BOE) or be eligible for licensure and must provide courses or programs that meet any applicable Standards of Quality, Standards of Learning and Standards of Accreditation. Also, the Department of Education (DOE) must maintain a page on their website that provides information for online learning options for parents across the state.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop and the BOE to approve (i) the criteria and application process for approving multidivision online providers; (ii) a process for monitoring approved multidivision online providers; (iii) a process for revocation of a previously approved multidivision online provider; and (iv) an appeals process for a multidivision online provider whose approval was revoked or whose application was denied.

DOE anticipates this legislation will result in additional costs associated with the implementation of this bill. However, it is assumed such costs can be absorbed within current resources by realigning current DOE staff responsibilities and reprioritizing the expenses of DOE as well as the BOE.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Board of Education, Department of Education and local school divisions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Identical to HB1388.

Date: 2/23/2010 dpbsbj

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