

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2016 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB954

<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:** Keam

**3. Committee:** Passed both houses

**4. Title:** Local school divisions; "Return to Learn Protocol" for students who have suffered concussions or other head injuries.

**5. Summary:** Requires each local school division's policies and procedures regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes to include a "Return to Learn Protocol" that requires school personnel to be alert to cognitive and academic issues that may be experienced by a student who has suffered a concussion or other head injury, including (i) difficulty with concentration, organization, and long-term and short-term memory, (ii) sensitivity to bright lights and sounds, and (iii) short-term problems with speech and language, reasoning, planning, and problem solving, and to accommodate the gradual return to full participation in academic activities of a student who has suffered a concussion or other head injury as appropriate, based on the recommendation of the student's licensed health care provider as to the appropriate amount of time that such student needs to be away from the classroom. The bill also broadens the scope of the "Return to Learn Protocol" in the Board of Education's guidelines for school division policies and procedures on concussions in student-athletes to require school personnel to (i) be alert to cognitive and academic issues that may be experienced by a student who has suffered a concussion or other head injury and (ii) accommodate the gradual return to full participation in academic activities of a student who has suffered a concussion or other head injury. Under current law, the "Return to Learn Protocol" only imposes such requirements on school personnel with respect to student-athletes.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** There is no anticipated state fiscal impact from this legislation. Any potential fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Local school divisions

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.