

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB17

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Stanley

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** STEM programs; grants for donations to programs at qualified schools.

5. **Summary:** Establishes a grant program administered by the Board of Education, beginning in 2017, to provide grants to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) organizations that provide donations to qualified schools. Donations received by qualified schools must be used to support STEM programs. The bill defines qualified schools as those public elementary and secondary schools at which at least 40 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Grants to STEM organizations are capped at \$50,000 per organization per year.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 138.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The cost of this program cannot be determined as it is dependent on the amount of funding provided for this program by the General Assembly.

It is anticipated that any costs associated with this bill's requirements of the Board of Education can be absorbed within existing resources.

The Department of Education (DOE) will incur costs to administer the grant program, process applications, and distribute grant payments, but such state administrative costs cannot be determined at this time. It is anticipated that these costs can be absorbed within existing resources; however, the magnitude of the grant program is indeterminate based on the bill's language. If the amount of funding provided and the accompanying demand for this program are significant, and DOE is unable to support this initiative with existing staff, DOE estimates a state cost of \$115,000 per year for salary, benefits, and related costs for an additional full-time equivalent program manager position.

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

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

11. **Other Comments:** None.