

Department of Planning and Budget

2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB786

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Surovell

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Public schools: online courses and virtual programs.

5. Summary: Provides that no student shall be charged tuition or fees for enrolling in any online course or virtual program that is required or is offered by the school division in which he resides. The bill provides that no local school board can offer and no student can be required to take any online course or virtual program unless every student enrolled in the course is provided or offered, free of charge, a computer or other electronic device necessary to take the course. Further, the bill provides an exception for the high school graduation requirement to take a virtual course if such requirements are not met.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill.

This bill prohibits a local school board from offering any online course or virtual program unless every student enrolled in the course is provided or offered, free of charge, a computer or other electronic device necessary to take the course. This bill also prohibits local school divisions from charging tuition or fees for online courses or virtual programs to non-resident students who are eligible for free or reduce priced meals in the federally funded lunch program. Any fiscal impact to local school divisions to meet the provisions of this bill is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is identical to HB1579.