

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2053

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

2. Patron: McQuinn

3. Committee: Passed both houses

4. Title: School boards; staffing ratios; guidance counselors.

5. Summary: Changes the name of guidance counselors to school counselors and requires school boards to employ school counselors in accordance with the following ratios effective with the 2019-2020 school year: in elementary schools, one hour per day per 91 students, one full-time at 455 students, one hour per day additional time per 91 students or major fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 74 students, one full-time at 370 students, one additional period per 74 students or major fraction thereof; in high schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 136.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: As introduced, HB1700, 2019 General Assembly Session, included \$36.0 million from the general fund in FY 2020 to support additional school counselors in school year 2019-2020 at the following ratios: in elementary schools, one hour per day per 75 students, one full-time at 375 students, one hour per day additional time per 75 students or major fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof; in high schools, one period per 60 students, one full-time at 300 students, one additional period per 60 students or major fraction thereof.

The Department of Education calculates a state cost of \$12.2 million in FY 2020 to support the alternate school counselor ratios required by this bill. The budget conference report reduces the funding included in the introduced budget by \$23.8 million in FY 2020. The remaining funding is sufficient to support the ratios established in this legislation.

Any actual state cost in future fiscal years is indeterminate and would be based on the Direct Aid to Public Education budget as rebenchmarked for future biennia; however, for the purpose of this review, the estimated state cost of \$12.2 million is carried forward in outgoing fiscal years, which is funded in the FY 2020 base.

Local school divisions would be required to provide the local share required to match any additional state funds based on each division's local composite index and any additional

funding needed to employ school counselors based on the new ratios. Because some school divisions may be meeting these requirements currently, any additional cost to localities is indeterminate at this time.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Education, local school divisions
- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** Consider changing guidance counselor(s) to school counselor(s) in Item 136 A.17, Item 136 C.9.e.3.b, and Item 136 C.39.a.1.
- 11. Other Comments:** The school counselor staffing ratios required by this bill are different from those required by SB1406 as enrolled.