

Department of Planning and Budget
2020 Special Session I - Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB5056

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: Freitas

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Public education; student education accounts; emergency.

5. Summary: Provides that, during a public health emergency, any school division may establish a program to create savings accounts for students to be used for alternative educational programs. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish policies and procedures under which the parent of each student may use such funds on public or private educational programs. The bill contains an emergency clause.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 143.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill imparts several new responsibilities on the Department of Education (DOE) to establish policies and procedures and to enforce the program. DOE would be required to monitor the types of expenditures to ensure they are permitted under the provisions of this legislation.

These responsibilities will generate administrative cost to DOE. Due to current staffing levels, DOE would require contract assistance to complete this work within the timeframes expected by this legislation. DOE estimates an additional general fund cost of \$60,000 to perform these administrative duties in FY 2021. This additional administrative cost likely may be incurred each time the voucher accounts are required to be activated.

If a local school board chooses to establish a program as described in this bill, new responsibilities would be imparted on local school divisions, which likely would increase administrative costs at the local level. Any actual fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None