

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2495

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

2. Patron: Durant

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Establishment of Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund and Program.

5. Summary: Establishes the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund and Program, to be administered by the Department of Education, for the purpose of awarding grants on a competitive basis to local school divisions to designate middle schools as mathematics innovation zone school in which competency-based mathematics education and evidence-based mathematics learning models are implemented in grades six, seven, and eight in partnership with technical assistance providers and other schools. The bill requires the Department to give preference to grant applications for public middle schools identified as in need of support, including schools that demonstrate need based on data from the immediately preceding school year on the grades five, six, and seven mathematics Standards of Learning assessments, rural schools, and economically disadvantaged schools.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 129 and Item 137.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The additional state cost for the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund and Program cannot be determined, as any cost is dependent on the amount of funding appropriated by the General Assembly for such grants. The bill directs that funds appropriated for the Standards of Learning (SOL) Algebra Readiness Initiative may be directed to the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund. The state SOL Algebra Readiness funding is a formula distribution for local school divisions, whereas the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Program is a competitive grant program. The budget bill, HB1400/SB800, 2023 General Assembly Session, includes an appropriation of \$15.4 million in fiscal year 2024 for the SOL Algebra Readiness program. If funding is redirected from this program to the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Program, there would be a proportional decrease in the state funding distributions to school divisions.

The Department of Education would require an additional position to administer the program at a total annual cost of \$132,932, including salary, benefits, and technology beginning in fiscal year 2024.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None