

Department of Planning and Budget

2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1255

House of Origin	☒ Introduced	☐ Substitute	☐ Engrossed
Second House	☐ In Committee	☐ Substitute	☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Taylor

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Access to electronic textbooks.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would prohibit school boards from making electronic textbooks available for use by students in their residence or residences unless the school board adopts a plan to ensure that by July 1, 2017, every student in the local school division will have access to a personal computing device approved by the Board and access to internet service in his residence or residences. The bill permits a local school board to establish a pilot program for the use of electronic textbooks at any secondary school in the local school division provided that specified conditions are met. The bill contains an enactment clause which states that the provisions of the bill do not apply to a program established by Henry County prior to July 1, 2014.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires the Department of Education to annually develop, update, and distribute to each school division a list of personal computing devices that comply with this bill. This workload can be absorbed within existing agency resources and would not have a state fiscal impact. If school divisions make substantial purchases of electronic textbooks in addition to traditional textbooks, the prevailing cost for textbooks used in the Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding formula could increase state costs in the future, when the SOQ is rebenchmarked using the higher costs. Such an increase, if any, would not impact state funding in FY 2015 or FY 2016, though it could impact the 2018-2020 biennial budget.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: Identical to HB936.

Date: 1/29/2014 dpb/smc

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