

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1302

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: Farrell

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Standards of Learning tests; expedited retake.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would require the Board of Education to adopt regulations to provide uniform criteria for eligibility for an expedited retake of any Standards of Learning (SOL) test to all students regardless of grade level or course. The bill would require the locality in which the school division is located to bear the cost of implementation of the uniform criteria, following local school board adoption. Currently, expedited retake is only available for assessments that are required for high school graduation.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 130.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill would allow all students who failed a SOL assessment within a specified range the opportunity to retake the test within the same testing window. The Governor's introduced budget includes \$200,000 to cover the state costs related to expedited retakes for the reading, mathematics, science and history assessments. This bill would also include the writing SOL assessments. Due to the labor needed to grade writing samples, DOE estimates that expedited retakes for writing SOL assessments will cost \$135,000 in FY2016.

The proposed legislation directs that the locality in which the school division is located is to bear the costs of implementing the uniform criteria, if the local school board has adopted the uniform criteria. Therefore, Item 130 would need to be amended to remove the \$200,000 in general fund support included in FY2016.

The costs associated with development and test scoring of all Standards of Learning tests is currently paid for by the Department of Education. There is currently no mechanism for school divisions to pay the costs associated with test development, administration, scoring and reporting. The development of a system to allow for reimbursement to occur could have a financial impact to the state, however, the amount cannot be determined at this time. It also cannot be determined at this time how many local school boards will adopt the uniform criteria and the amount of the resulting local fiscal impact.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: Similar to HB1490, HB1668, HB2241, SB757 and SB874.

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