

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2339

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: Surovell

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Access to electronic textbooks and adequate connectivity.

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, 2018, every student in the local school division will have access to a personal computing device capable of supporting such textbooks and adequate connectivity. The bill also permits a local school board to establish a pilot program for the use of electronic textbooks at certain secondary schools. The Board of Education is to annually develop, update, and distribute to each local school division a list of personal computing devices that comply with the legislation. The bill contains an enactment clause which states that its provisions do not apply to any program established by Henry County prior to July 1, 2015.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill requires the Board 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. Any such increase would not occur until the SOQ is rebenchmarked using the higher costs and would not impact state finances until the 2018-2020 biennial budget, at the earliest.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 2/3/2015 dpb/smc

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