

## Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1046

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Torian

3. **Committee:** Education

4. **Title:** School personnel; staffing ratios; school nurses.

5. **Summary:** Excludes school nurse positions from requirements for student support positions and instead requires each local school board to employ at least one full-time equivalent school nurse position in each elementary school, middle school, and high school in the local school division and at least one full-time equivalent school nurse position per 550 students in grades kindergarten through 12.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 136.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Standards of Quality currently do not include a staffing standard for school nurses. Funding for school nurses and other support positions is calculated using statewide prevailing costs. Budget language in Item 136 permits school divisions to spend the state share of funding resulting from the support cost calculation for school nurses on licensed school nurse positions employed by the school division or for licensed nurses contracted by the local school division to provide school health services.

The Department of Education estimates an additional state cost of \$41.3 million in FY 2019 and \$41.9 million in FY 2020 to provide the state share of one full-time equivalent school nurse position in each elementary school, middle school, and high school in the local school division and at least one full-time equivalent school nurse position per 550 students in grades kindergarten through 12. The greatest impact would be in divisions with low enrollment, which would be funded based on a full-time school nurse position for each school despite enrollment. These funds would be distributed through Basic Aid, and school divisions would be required to provide local matching funds based on the local composite index. Any state cost in outgoing years is indeterminate at this time and would be based on the Direct Aid to Public Education budget as rebenchmarked for future biennia.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is similar to HB791 and SB366; however, this bill funds one nurse per school and one nurse per 550 students, whereas the aforementioned bills fund one nurse per school or one nurse per 550 students. Because this bill uses “and” versus “or”, the state cost is greater.

This bill is also similar to HB1254.