

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB252

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: Guzman

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: High school staffing; mental health counselors.

5. Summary: Requires each school board to employ at least one mental health counselor per 250 students in each high school in the local school division.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 136.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill establishes a staffing requirement for high school mental health counselors under the Standards of Quality (SOQ). Because the existing SOQ model does not include a mechanism to calculate the state fiscal impact of funding one mental health counselor per 250 students in each high school, the Department of Education used the existing secondary school guidance counselors field in the SOQ model as a proxy for mental health counselors and modified the ratio accordingly. As with secondary school guidance counselors, the funded secondary school teacher salary amount was used to compute the fiscal impact for mental health counselors.

To fund one mental health counselor per 250 students in each high school, the Department of Education estimates an additional state cost of \$76.8 million in FY 2019 and \$77.7 million in FY 2020. Of the additional state cost in FY 2020, approximately \$816,000 is related to the proposed 2.0 percent salary incentive increase for funded SOQ instructional and support positions, effective December 1, 2019.

Local school divisions would be required to provide the local share of any additional state funds based on each division's local composite index. Any actual cost to localities is indeterminate at this time.

The Department of Education would need to modify the SOQ model to incorporate this staffing requirement. The Department of Education anticipates that such modifications can be absorbed by existing resources.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None