Department of Planning and Budget
2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1406

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

2. **Patron:** Dance

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** School boards; staffing ratios; guidance counselors.

5. **Summary:** Changes the name of guidance counselors to school counselors and requires school boards to employ school counselors in accordance with the following ratios: (i) effective with the 2019-2020 school year, in elementary schools, one hour per day per 75 students, one full-time at 375 students, one hour per day additional time per 75 students or major fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof; in high schools, one period per 60 students, one full-time at 300 students, one additional period per 60 students or major fraction thereof; (ii) effective with the 2020-2021 school year, in elementary schools, one hour per day per 60 students, one full-time at 300 students, one hour per day additional time per 60 students or major fraction thereof; in middle and high schools, one period per 55 students, one full-time at 275 students, one additional period per 55 students or major fraction thereof; and (iii) effective with the 2021-2022 school year, in elementary, middle, and high schools, one hour per day per 50 students, one full-time at 250 students, one additional hour per day per 50 students or major fraction thereof.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: Yes, a technical language amendment in Item 136. The introduced budget provides sufficient funding to support the costs identified in FY 2020.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** A language amendment is necessary to change guidance counselor(s) to school counselor(s) in Item 136 A.17, Item 136 C.9.e.3.b, and Item 136 C.39.a.1.

   HB1700, 2019 General Assembly Session, includes $36.0 million from the general fund in FY 2020 for the additional school counselors required by this bill in school year 2019-2020. As such, no budget amendment to provide additional funding is needed to support this legislation.

   The modified staffing ratios in school year 2020-2021 (FY 2021) and school year 2021-2022 (FY 2022) will require additional state funding in the 2020-2022 biennium and future biennia. Using HB1700 as the base, the Department of Education calculates an additional state cost of approximately $33.2 million for a total of $69.2 million in FY 2021 and an additional state cost of $64.6 million for a total of $100.6 million in FY 2022 to fund the

staffing ratios required in the 2020-2022 biennium. These estimates account for the proposed 5.0 percent compensation supplement in FY 2020.

Any actual state cost in future fiscal years is indeterminate and would be based on the Direct Aid to Public Education budget as rebenchmarked for future biennia; however, for the purpose of this review, the estimated additional state cost of $100.6 million is carried forward in outgoing fiscal years, which includes the $36.0 million funded in the FY 2020 base.

Local school divisions would be required to provide the local share required to match any additional state funds based on each division's local composite index and any additional funding needed to employ school counselors based on the new ratios. Because some school divisions may be meeting these requirements currently, any additional cost to localities is indeterminate at this time.

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

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. **Other Comments:** This bill is identical to HB2053.