

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1508

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: McQuinn

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Minimum staffing ratio for school counselors.

5. Summary: Changes the effective date from school year 2019-2020 to school year 2020-2021 for the staffing standard that requires local school boards to employ school counselors in accordance with the following ratios, effective with the 2020-2021 school year: in elementary schools, one hour per day per 75 students, one full-time equivalent 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 equivalent at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof; and in high schools, one period per 60 students, one full-time equivalent at 300 students, one additional period per 60 students or major fraction thereof. Effective with the 2021-2022 school year, the bill requires local school boards to employ one full-time equivalent school counselor position per 250 students in grades kindergarten through 12.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: HB 30, 2020 General Assembly Session, includes \$21.2 million in FY 2021 and \$78.1 million in FY 2022 to support the state share of cost for the additional school counselors required by this bill in school year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. As such, a budget amendment is not necessary to support this legislation.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None