

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB151

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: Stuart

3. Committee: Education and Health

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 or at least one full-time equivalent school nurse position per 550 students in grades kindergarten through 12.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 145.

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 is calculated using statewide prevailing costs, and a school nurse per pupil allocation is computed for each division. Budget language in Item 145 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 \$796,256 in FY 2021 and \$834,485 in FY 2022 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 or at least one full-time equivalent school nurse position per 550 students in grades kindergarten through 12. 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: None

