

Department of Planning and Budget
2020 Special Session I - Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB5008

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: Cole, M.L.

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: School closure; education vouchers; emergency.

5. Summary: Requires, in the event that a public school in the Commonwealth is closed for in-person instruction for 30 or more days during a school year, the parent of an enrolled student who withdraws his child from attendance at such school to receive, upon request, an education voucher in an amount equal to a prorated share of the applicable Standards of Quality per-pupil state funds appropriated for public school purposes and apportioned to the school division, including the per-pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid and any state per-pupil share of special education funding for which the child is eligible, to cover the expenses of providing home instruction or tuition and fees at a nonpublic school for such student for the remainder of the school year. The bill permits the Department of Education to establish rules, regulations, or procedures for the issuance of such education vouchers. The bill contains an emergency clause.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill. The Department of Education can absorb any administrative costs associated with establishing rules, regulations, and procedures related to the vouchers.

Local school divisions may experience increased administrative costs to administer the vouchers in addition to the loss of funds that are transferred to withdrawn students. Any actual fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: The basis of proration in this bill is unclear. It is not clear whether the applicable funds should be prorated based on the date of withdrawal or based on the date of the school closure.