

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1938

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: Plum

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Public schools; staffing ratios; school counselors with training or experience in mental health.

5. Summary: Requires each school board to employ, in addition to the school counselors that it employs as otherwise required by law, at least one full-time school counselor with specialized training or experience in mental health per 1,000 students in grades kindergarten through 12.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 137.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill adds a new staffing standard to Standard 2 of the Standards of Quality and adds a new position to be funded through Basic Aid. The Department of Education (DOE) estimates that there would be a state cost of \$62.9 million in fiscal year 2024 to support the state share of these positions. Any additional 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.

Local school divisions would have to provide the local share required to match any additional state funds based on each division's local composite index. The actual fiscal impact to local school divisions 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: DOE's current SOQ funding model does not support a standard for mental health counselors and would require several months to program and test the addition to the application. DOE can absorb any cost related to this.