

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1247

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: Maldonado

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Public school staffing ratios; teachers; English language learner students.

5. Summary: Requires state funding to be provided pursuant to the general appropriation act to support division wide ratios of English language learner students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions as follows: (i) for each English language learner identified as proficiency level one or two, one position per 20 students; (ii) for each English language learner identified as proficiency level three or four, one position per 40 students; and (iii) for each English language learner identified as proficiency level five or in monitor status, one position per 100 students. Current law requires state funding to be provided pursuant to the general appropriation act to support one such teaching position per 50 English language learner students, regardless of the identified English proficiency level of such students.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 125.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill implements tiered staffing ratios based on English proficiency data. English language proficiency for English language learner (ELL) students is assessed using the WIDA Consortium's ACCESS for ELLs test. This data is different from the traditional data used to support the ELL ratios in the Governor's introduced budget, HB/SB30, 2024 General Assembly Session, which is based on historical English as a Second Language (ESL) enrollment trends. DOE does not have a WIDA proficiency level classification for all students enrolled in ESL as all students that are enrolled in ESL are likely not being assessed every year. These students are classified as all other English language learners for the purpose of calculating staffing standards per the provisions of this bill.

The Department of Education estimates that the additional state cost to implement the tiered staffing ratios required by this bill is \$61.7 million general fund in FY25 and \$61.2 million general fund in FY26.

Local school divisions would have to provide the local share required to match any additional state funds received 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: Local school divisions, Department of Education

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to SB272.