

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB231

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: Freitas

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Children with disabilities; alternative placements; state funds.

5. Summary: Requires the parent of any child with a disability who is placed in a public school pursuant to his individualized education program who subsequently places his child in a nonpublic school setting to receive from the school board, upon request, 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 pay for tuition and fees associated with such nonpublic school setting, subject to such rules, regulations, or procedures as the Department of Education may establish. The bill requires each such parent to submit annually to the division superintendent an evaluation or assessment that indicates that the child is achieving an adequate level of educational growth and progress.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 138.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Education (DOE) estimates an annual state cost between \$388,329 and \$468,329 and one-time cost of \$50,000 to address the requirements of this bill. DOE does not have available staff to manage this initiative, develop guidelines, or monitor to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations governing the education of students with disabilities. DOE anticipates the need for three full-time equivalent positions to perform these responsibilities, including a program manager (pay band six) and two program specialists (pay band five). Based on a program manager's salary of \$90,000 and program specialists' salaries at \$80,000, DOE estimates \$373,329 for salaries and benefits plus an additional \$9,000 in VITA charges and \$6,000 for office supplies and program-related travel for a total of \$388,329. Depending on the volume of participation, DOE also may require an additional clerical position (pay band three), which would increase costs, for salary, benefits, and office costs by an additional \$80,000. There are also likely to be startup costs, such as for a data system, which are estimated to be \$50,000.

Local school divisions may experience a fiscal impact to process payments for the nonpublic school placements and to process the annual evaluation information from parents of impacted students. Any actual fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None