

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB547

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Hudson

**3. Committee:** Appropriations

**4. Title:** Department of Education; statewide strategic plan; speech-language pathologists.

**5. Summary:** Requires the Department to develop and maintain a statewide strategic plan for recruiting and retaining speech-language pathologists that, at a minimum, (i) analyze data to determine the specific staffing needs of local school divisions on an ongoing basis; (ii) evaluates the potential effectiveness of strategies for addressing recruitment and retention challenges, including tuition assistance, differentiated pay for speech-language pathologists, and the expansion of speech-language pathologist mentorships; and (iii) estimates the costs of implementing each such strategy, including the extent to which federal funds could be used to support implementation. The bill requires the Department, no later than November 1 of each year, to update the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education on its progress in implementing such plan. The foregoing provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2023. The bill also directs the Department of Education and the Board of Education, in consultation with each local school board, to (a) examine the caseloads and compensation of speech-language pathologists in each local school division, (b) compare such caseloads and compensation to those of speech-language pathologists in contiguous states, and (c) make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2022, for such amendments to relevant law and the general appropriations act as may be necessary to effectuate a reduction in caseloads and increase in compensation that would facilitate stronger recruitment and retention of speech-language pathologists in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Education anticipates that the agency is prepared to conduct the research and analysis necessary to comply with the provisions of this bill and that the agency can absorb any cost with existing resources.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None