

152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY FISCAL NOTE

BILL: HOUSE BILL NO. 200

SPONSOR: Representative Longhurst

DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SCHOOL-

BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.

- 2. This Act creates Mental Health Services Units for school districts and charter schools serving students in grades 9-12.
- 3. This Act establishes Mental Health Services Units of state funding as follows:
 - a. 1 unit for each 400 full-time equivalent students in grades 9-12 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2024; 1 unit for each 325 full-time equivalent students in grades 9-12 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2025; and 1 unit for each 250 full-time equivalent students in grades 9-12 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2026.
 - b. 1 unit for each 700 full-time equivalent students in grades 9-12 for employment of full-time psychologists.
- 4. Per the September 30, 2022 Unit Count, there were 45,208 students enrolled in grades 9-12 in Delaware school districts and charter schools.
- 5. Upon full implementation, this Act will generate 188.1 Mental Health Services Units of funding for full-time counselors or social workers and 67.2 Mental Health Services Units of funding for full-time psychologists.
- 6. The average state unit of funding Mental Health Services Units for counselors or social workers is estimated to be \$84,802, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at \$37,930. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 31.93%.
- 7. The average state unit of funding for Mental Health Services Units for psychologists is estimated to be \$88,684, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at \$40,081. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 31.93%.
- 8. Overall student enrollment and costs are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2.0%.
- 9. This Act requires the Department of Education to provide reimbursement to eligible school-based employees who are enrolled in a program that will lead to them becoming licensed mental health providers.
- 10. Reimbursement will be provided for up to six credits of approved coursework to eligible employees. The Department of Education estimates an average reimbursement cost of \$1,300 per employee.
- 11. It is assumed that the number of participants in the mental health critical need program will match the number of participants enrolled in the existing critical need reimbursement program. It is

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- estimated that approximately 460 school employees will apply and be found eligible for the reimbursement program annually.
- 12. Upon implementation, the Department of Education will need an Education Specialist to administer the reimbursement program. The personnel costs are assumed to be \$141,849, including other employment costs at a rate of 31.93%.
- 13. Employment costs are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2.0%.

Cost:

	Reimbursement Program Cost	State Unit Cost	Local Unit Cost	Total Costs
Fiscal Year 2024:	\$740,039	\$15,330,592	\$6,885,902	\$22,956,533
Fiscal Year 2025:	\$742,880	\$18,253,884	\$8,194,904	\$27,191,668
Fiscal Year 2026:	\$745,778	\$22,826,565	\$10,241,907	\$33,814,250

Prepared by Kiley Thomson Office of the Controller General