



**149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL NOTE**

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<b>BILL:</b>	<b>HOUSE BILL NO. 55</b>
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	<b>Representative Heffernan</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>AN ACT TO AMEND THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.</b>

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**Assumptions:**

1. Effective for Fiscal Year 2019.
2. This Act increases the age requirement for compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18 years old but phased in over a two-year period such that in the first year following enactment the age requirement is 17.
3. Children may be exempted from the Act's age requirement under the following conditions:
  - a. the child has received a high school diploma or a certificate of performance;
  - b. the child is 16 years of age and obtains a waiver that the child has an alternative learning plan for obtaining a high school diploma or a secondary credential; or
  - c. when the child is any age and upon the request of the parent or guardian and the request is supported by documentation from a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or neurologist.
4. The cost estimate is based on the following assumptions:
  - a. Average # of dropouts over the past two school years: 9<sup>th</sup> graders – 300, 10<sup>th</sup> graders – 212, 11<sup>th</sup> graders – 163, 12<sup>th</sup> graders – 169.
  - b. Retention rate of 20%-50% of students that otherwise would have dropped out.
  - c. An average cost per teacher unit for Fiscal Year 2019 of \$87,000 for the State share and \$32,000 for the Local share.
  - d. Generation of an additional 1-6 units for Fiscal Year 2019 and an additional 5-13 units for Fiscal Year 2020.
  - e. Inflation factor of 2%.
5. The cost estimate does not take into account that retained students may be special education students (lower unit ratio) and/or may be vocational students (earn additional Division II – AOC units) which would increase estimated costs.

Cost: State

Fiscal Year 2018	\$ 0
Fiscal Year 2019	\$87,000 – \$523,000
Fiscal Year 2020	\$445,000 – \$1,156,000

Cost: Local

Fiscal Year 2018	\$ 0
Fiscal Year 2019	\$32,000 - \$192,000
Fiscal Year 2020	\$162,000 - \$422,000

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