149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL: HOUSE BILL NO. 55

SPONSOR: Representative Heffernan

DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SCHOOL
                    ATTENDANCE.

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: 9th graders – 300, 10th graders – 212, 11th graders – 163, 12th 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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