



**151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

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| BILL: | SENATE BILL NO. 19 |
| SPONSOR: | Senator Wilson |
| DESCRIPTION: | AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN HOMESCHOOLS. |

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act makes children with disabilities who attend homeschools eligible to receive speech language pathology and audiology services in the same manner as students who attend private schools.
3. Per the Delaware Department of Education's 2020 Nonpublic School Report, there are currently 4,950 homeschool students in Delaware.
4. Per the 2019-2020 Delaware IDEA Child Count and Educational Environment for Students Ages 3-21 reports, there were 2,665 students identified with a speech or language impairment in school districts and charter schools statewide. This represents approximately 1.89% of the total student population (140,851) for the same year. By applying this percentage to the homeschool population, approximately 94 homeschool students would become eligible for services under this Act.
5. Currently, speech language pathology and audiology services provided to private school students (via a school district) are paid for through federal funds (IDEA funds).
6. Per the Delaware Department of Education, it is unlikely that federal funds used to provide services to private school students can be used for homeschool students, due to funding eligibility criteria.
7. Currently, districts and charter schools earn state funding for related student services units (including speech language pathology and audiology services) based on students included in the annual unit and enrollment count. There is no mechanism to include homeschool students in the state funding units earned included in this Act. Therefore, it is assumed that local funding sources would be used to cover the cost of providing services for homeschool students eligible under this Act.
8. In order to determine the cost of services per student eligible under this Act, information regarding individual service plans and service delivery methods would be necessary and would likely vary significantly by student. School districts are unable to calculate an average amount paid per student for private school students due to the variety of methods and services used and requested. Therefore, the cost of services to be provided under this Act are indeterminable.

Cost:

| | Local School Funds |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fiscal Year 2022: | Indeterminable |
| Fiscal Year 2023: | Indeterminable |
| Fiscal Year 2024: | Indeterminable |

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Office of the Controller General