



**151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL:	SENATE BILL NO. 12
AS AMENDED BY:	SA 1
SPONSOR:	Senator Poore
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EDUCATION AND THE DELAWARE STUDENT EXCELLENCE EQUALS DEGREE ACT.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act expands the Student Excellence Equals Degree (SEED) program through the following:
 - a. Expands eligibility to adult Delaware residents, aged 25 years or older.
 - b. Adds credit or non-credit programs leading to the award of a recognized academic credential at Delaware Technical and Community College (DTCC) as eligible.
 - c. Increases the number of continuous semesters for eligible participation from 6 to 10.
 - d. Makes various other adjustments to eligibility including removal of enrollment requirement to begin in the fall semester immediately following graduation from high school, makes certain allowances for G.P.A.s less than 2.5, permits leaves of absence for up to one year, and changes student certification of felonies to violent felonies.
3. The estimated annual tuition rate (and maximum SEED award) at DTCC is \$4,600 for a degree program and \$1,310 for a workforce development program. The annual tuition rate at the University of Delaware for an associate degree program is \$4,226 and the annual tuition rate for an undergraduate degree program is \$12,730 (SEED can be applied to a junior year).
4. Per the University of Delaware, while the total amount of newly eligible students is difficult to determine, the University anticipates that a minimum of 62 new students will become eligible for SEED funding toward an associate degree at the University of Delaware under this Act. Assuming all new students receive the current average SEED award of \$3,779 per student at the University of Delaware, the total additional SEED cost in the first year of implementation is \$234,298.
5. Per DTCC, using current year enrollment data, 969 additional degree seeking students and 567 workforce development students would become eligible for SEED at DTCC under this Act. Considering historical enrollment and participation trends, actual per student SEED expenditures, and adjustments for enrollment shifts from full-time to part-time, DTCC estimates additional SEED costs in the first year of implementation of \$873,642 for degree programs and \$478,150 for workforce development programs, for a total additional SEED cost of \$1,352,244.
6. Costs beyond the initial implementation year are assumed to increase according to applicable movements in cohorts, participation trends, and enrollment growth.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2022: \$1,586,542
Fiscal Year 2023: \$2,319,265
Fiscal Year 2024: \$3,321,204

Prepared by Ruth Ann Jones
Office of the Controller General