151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 300**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Longhurst**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

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 6-8.

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 6-8 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2023; 1 unit for each 325 full-time equivalent students in grades 6-8 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2024; and 1 unit for each 250 full-time equivalent students in grades 6-8 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2025.
   b. 1 unit for each 700 full-time equivalent students in grades 6-8 for employment of full-time psychologists.

4. Per the Department of Education's Student Enrollment and Unit Allotment Report for School Year 2021-2022, there were 33,112 students enrolled in grades 6-8 in Delaware school districts and charter schools as of September 30, 2021.

5. Upon full implementation, this Act will generate 137.80 Mental Health Services Units of funding for full-time counselors or social workers and 49.21 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 $77,581, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at $36,048. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 33.11%.

7. The average state unit of funding for Mental Health Services Units for psychologists is estimated to be $78,936, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at $36,843. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 33.11%.

8. This Act stipulates that funds shall only be provided at a level necessary to satisfy the ratio requirements, and funding levels shall be determined after considering funds already received from the Opportunity Fund or any other funding already applied toward mental health support personnel. Further, funds allocated under this Act may not supplant mental health funding from another source unless ratios are already met and an approved application for supplanted funds is granted by the Department of Education.

However, because data on other funding sources and existing staffing levels of social workers and psychologists dedicated only to grades 6-8 has not yet been collected from districts and charters, this analysis assumes all Mental Health Services Units generated under this Act to require full funding.

9. Overall student enrollment and costs are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2.0%.

Cost:

	State Share	Local Share	Total
Fiscal Year 2023:	$10,125,428	$4,712,544	$14,837,972
Fiscal Year 2024:	$12,071,755	$5,617,207	$17,688,962
Fiscal Year 2025:	$15,118,437	$7,033,154	$22,151,592

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Office of the Controller General