151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 315**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Heffernan**
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. Upon signature, this Act takes effect in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2024).

2. This Act creates a unit for substitute teachers at high needs elementary schools and all middle and high schools. Units will be earned as follows:
   a. One substitute teacher unit for a school which enrolls 30 or more Division I units of pupils, or 65% of a unit for a school that enrolls 25-30 Division I units of pupils.
   b. A second substitute teacher unit for a school whose enrollment reaches 55 Division I units of pupils, or 65% of a unit for a school that enrolls 50-55 Division I units of pupils.

3. This Act requires that substitute teacher units be paid from state funds for 10 months of salary at a starting salary equitable to a no degree, step 1 teacher in accordance with 14 Del. C. §1305. A school district may elect to take a cash option for up to 30% of the units earned at an amount of $35,000 per unit.

4. The estimated cost per substitute teacher unit, including other employment costs at a rate of 33.11%, is $54,819 in state funds and $16,550 in local funds.

5. Per the Department of Education, using 2021-2022 school year enrollment data, approximately 208.25 substitute teacher units statewide will be generated upon implementation. It is estimated that approximately 10% of these units (20.83) will be taken as a cash option.

6. This Act also requires the Department of Education to develop a professional development program specifically designed for substitute teachers by May 30, 2023. To develop the required training modules and maintain ongoing tracking and management of credits, the department estimates it will incur initial development costs of $500,000, with annual ongoing maintenance costs of approximately $300,000-$400,000.

7. Overall costs are assumed to increase at a rate of 2% annually.

Cost:

	State Funds	**Local Funds**
Fiscal Year 2023:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Fiscal Year 2024:	$11,723,482	$3,163,905
Fiscal Year 2025:	$11,847,952	$3,227,183

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Office of the Controller General