



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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Office of the Controller General