151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 464**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Chukwuocha**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EQUITY OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY COUNCIL.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.

2. This Act creates an Equity Ombudsman Program ("the program"), to be contractually maintained by the Department of Education, to address issues involving system areas and individual student inequities. The Ombudspersons will focus on non-legal interventions with school districts and the Department of Education to resolve disputes or complaints.

3. This Act also creates the Educational Equity Council to provide oversight of the program.

4. This Act requires the program contract be awarded to a Delaware-based non-profit, nongovernmental organization.

5. This Act requires initial one-time seed funding for the Delaware Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI) in the amount of $250,000 and annual ongoing funding of not less than $40,000 to support capacity for litigation. The Educational Equity Council shall make annual recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for adequate funding levels of the program.

6. This Act requires the program to be funded at not less than $1,000,000 per year.

7. This Act requires that the Educational Equity Council be supported by 1.0 FTE, Administrative Assistant, within the Department of Education, and receive initial and ongoing funding of not less than $10,000.
    a. Annual personnel costs, including other employment costs, are estimated at $85,252.
    b. Personnel costs are assumed to increase at a rate of 2% annually.

Cost:

	On-Going	**One-Time**
Fiscal Year 2023:	$1,095,252	$250,000
Fiscal Year 2024:	$1,136,957	
Fiscal Year 2025:	$1,138,696	

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Office of the Controller General