152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 200**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Longhurst**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

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 9-12.

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 9-12 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2024; 1 unit for each 325 full-time equivalent students in grades 9-12 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2025; and 1 unit for each 250 full-time equivalent students in grades 9-12 for employment of full-time counselors or social workers in Fiscal Year 2026.
   b. 1 unit for each 700 full-time equivalent students in grades 9-12 for employment of full-time psychologists.

4. Per the September 30, 2022 Unit Count, there were 45,208 students enrolled in grades 9-12 in Delaware school districts and charter schools.

5. Upon full implementation, this Act will generate 188.1 Mental Health Services Units of funding for full-time counselors or social workers and 67.2 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 $84,802, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at $37,930. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 31.93%.

7. The average state unit of funding for Mental Health Services Units for psychologists is estimated to be $88,684, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at $40,081. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 31.93%.

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

9. This Act requires the Department of Education to provide reimbursement to eligible school-based employees who are enrolled in a program that will lead to them becoming licensed mental health providers.

10. Reimbursement will be provided for up to six credits of approved coursework to eligible employees. The Department of Education estimates an average reimbursement cost of $1,300 per employee.

11. It is assumed that the number of participants in the mental health critical need program will match the number of participants enrolled in the existing critical need reimbursement program. It is

estimated that approximately 460 school employees will apply and be found eligible for the reimbursement program annually.

12. Upon implementation, the Department of Education will need an Education Specialist to administer the reimbursement program. The personnel costs are assumed to be $141,849, including other employment costs at a rate of 31.93%.

13. Employment costs are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2.0%.

Cost:

	Reimbursement Program Cost	State Unit Cost	Local Unit Cost	Total Costs
Fiscal Year 2024:	$740,039	$15,330,592	$6,885,902	$22,956,533
Fiscal Year 2025:	$742,880	$18,253,884	$8,194,904	$27,191,668
Fiscal Year 2026:	$745,778	$22,826,565	$10,241,907	$33,814,250

Prepared by Kiley Thomson
Office of the Controller General