152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE BILL NO. 217**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Mantzavinos**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION.**

Assumptions:

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

2. This Act creates a Long-Term Nursing Care Support program that will provide loans and loan repayments to qualifying long term care nurses. This program shall be administered by the Delaware Higher Education Office.

3. Under the terms of this program, loans and loan repayments shall be awarded to qualifying applicants who meet the requirements as outlined in this Act. Loans are conditional upon the applicant's agreement to fulfill a four-year service obligation as a nurse at a long-term care facility. A loan or loan repayment under this program may not exceed $5,000 per year and an individual may not receive more than four loan repayments in their lifetime.

4. There are approximately 306 nurses who have been employed for at least one year at state-run Long Term Care facilities statewide (Delaware Veterans Home, Delaware Psychiatric Center, Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill, and Stockley Center). The number of these employees who meet the other requirements of the program and would thereby qualify for a loan or loan repayment is unknown. The number of eligible employees employed at non-state-run Long Term Care facilities is unknown.

5. These loans shall be awarded contingent on funding based on the size of the applicant pool. This Act requires that a minimum of $1.0 million be appropriated in the Budget Act each year to be known as the Long-Term Nursing Care Support Program. If there are insufficient funds to make a loan payment on behalf of every qualifying applicant, priority must be given to applicants with the greatest financial need.

6. Per the Department of Education, an Education Associate Position would be needed in the Higher Education Office to manage this program. The estimated Fiscal Year 2025 personnel costs, including OECs at a rate of 32.94%, for 1.0 FTE Education Associate are estimated to be $172,415. Employment costs are assumed to increase at the rate of recommended Educator pay increases.

Cost:

	Loan Repayment Costs	Salary Costs	Total Costs
Fiscal Year 2025:	Minimum of $1,000,000	$172,415	Minimum of $1,172,415
Fiscal Year 2026:	Minimum of $1,000,000	$181,215	Minimum of $1,181,215
Fiscal Year 2027:	Minimum of $1,000,000	$190,369	Minimum of $1,190,369

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