152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE SUBSTITUTE NO. 2 TO HOUSE BILL NO. 244**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Michael Smith**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FUNDING FOR ATHLETIC TRAINERS.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act creates Athletic Trainer Units of funding for schools or charter schools serving grades 9-12 that have athletic programs as follows:
    a. 1 unit each for 9 schools for employment of full-time Athletic Trainers in Fiscal Year 2025;
    b. 1 unit each for 18 schools for employment of full-time Athletic Trainers in Fiscal Year 2026; and
    c. 1 unit for each school for employment of full-time Athletic Trainers in Fiscal Year 2027.
3. This Act also allows a school or district with less than 3 sports teams to submit an application to the Department of Education should it wish to receive partial funding for a unit. Per the Department of Education, there are no schools or districts with athletic programs that have less than 3 sports teams.
4. In Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026, the schools to receive funding shall be selected by the Department of Education based on athletic participation and shall be proportionally distributed to all 3 counties.
5. Per the September 30, 2023, Unit Count, there are approximately 45 schools that serve grades 9-12 that have an athletic program. Upon full implementation, this Act will generate an estimated 45 units of funding for full-time Athletic Trainers.
6. Funding for an Athletic Trainer shall be shared between State and Local funds based upon the 14 Del. Code § 1305 school employee salary schedule. Upon approval by the Department of Education, a school or district may choose to provide all or part of the services of an Athletic Trainer through a contract with a public or private agency.
7. The average state unit of funding for an Athletic Trainer in Fiscal Year 2025 is estimated to be $75,447, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at $24,817. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 32.94%.
8. Employment costs are assumed to increase as recommended by the Public Education Compensation Committee.

Cost:

	State Cost	Local Cost	Total Costs
Fiscal Year 2025:	$679,024	$223,356	$902,380
Fiscal Year 2026:	$1,423,762	$474,875	$1,898,637
Fiscal Year 2027:	$3,726,976	$1,259,004	$4,985,980

Prepared by Kiley Thomson
Office of the Controller General