153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 69**
SPONSOR:	**Representative K. Williams**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO READING COMPETENCY.**

Assumptions:

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

2. This Act updates the statewide standards for literacy screening and intervention in Delaware. Beginning December 1, 2026, the Department of Education, in consultation with curriculum and special education supervisors from local education agencies, elementary school teachers, and elementary special education teachers, would be required to approve literacy approaches that incorporate additional literacy approaches and strategies.
    a) According to the Department of Education, they do not have capacity in-house to support the facilitation of stakeholders. The Department anticipates the need to solicit and partner with a qualified vendor who can provide expertise to advise on the reliability, validity, and essential components of assessment and intervention tools. The Department estimates one-time costs of approximately $250,000 to $500,000 for this contract.

3. Additionally, this Act requires the Department of Education to provide a process for local education agencies to apply for approval of alternative reading screeners, which would then be added to the list of approved screeners.
    a) According to the Department of Education, they do not have capacity in-house to review and approve alternative reading screeners. The Department anticipates the need to solicit and partner with a qualified vendor who can annually review alternative assessments using the same model as implemented in the updated screener and intervention list. The Department estimates ongoing costs of approximately $50,000 to $100,000 for this contract.

4. Beginning February 28, 2026, the Department of Education would also be required to identify schools with low proficiency rates and provide supports to these schools. According to the Department of Education, there may be costs associated with revising and developing online modules to support educators using new literacy approaches/standards or going through the alternative assessment process. One-time costs to develop new modules are estimated to be around $125,000, which is in alignment with previously developed educator support modules.

Cost:

	One-Time Cost	Ongoing Cost	Total Cost
Fiscal Year 2026:	$375,000 - $625,000	$0	$375,000 - $625,000
Fiscal Year 2027:	$0	$50,000 - $100,000	$50,000 - $100,000
Fiscal Year 2028:	$0	$50,000 - $100,000	$50,000 - $100,000

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