



**153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL:	HOUSE BILL NO. 77
SPONSOR:	Representative Morrison
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO TRAINING FOR SCHOOL BOARDS.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act requires each school board member to complete the following training at the beginning of their term on the school board:
 - a) Requirements for school board meetings.
 - b) Best practices regarding code of conduct meetings.
 - c) The State Employees', Officers' and Officials' Code of Conduct.
3. The Department of Education is directed to develop regulations regarding the criteria, material, and method of training. Each school district or charter school is responsible for offering training, which may be delegated to or purchased from another entity.
4. According to the Department of Elections, there are 97 elected school board seats statewide in local districts statewide. There are an additional 21 appointed school board seats within the vocational-technical school boards. There are also currently 265 volunteer board members on charter schools' boards of directors statewide.
5. According to the Delaware School Board Association, this training is currently offered to all new and returning school board members annually. Although this training is offered at no cost to the board members, the Delaware School Board Association estimates that it costs around \$1,000 annually. The costs of this are paid through Association funds.
6. Local education agencies may elect to offer their own training outside of what is offered by the Delaware School Board Association. According to the Department of Education, it is anticipated that licensed attorneys who already provide services to individual school districts and charter schools may be utilized to provide trainings required by this Act.
 - a) The exact cost of training is expected to include attorney's fees at an agreed upon hourly rate, and travel costs, if necessary.
 - b) It is expected that any training costs will be paid through local school funds.
 - c) According to a brief survey of local education agencies, their attorney fees are estimated to be between \$350-\$400 per hour. Including travel expenses, the cost for a local education agency to provide the training mandated through this bill is estimated to be between \$1,500 - \$2,000 per training.
 - d) According to these local education agencies, many school boards also already offer this training independently.

7. This training must be completed by all new school board members at the beginning of their term. Due to rotating election cycles, resignations, and other variations in turnover, the exact number of new school board members annually is unknown.
8. As the exact number of new school board members is unknown, the number of trainings that would be offered annually is unknown. The local school costs statewide are indeterminable.

Cost:

	Local School Cost
Fiscal Year 2026:	Indeterminable
Fiscal Year 2027:	Indeterminable
Fiscal Year 2028:	Indeterminable

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