153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE BILL NO. 81**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Lockman**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO TEACHER SALARIES.**

Assumptions:

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

2. This Act amends Delaware Code Title 14 § 1312(f), which relates to partial experience credit for paraeducators who transition into teaching roles. This was established by Senate Bill No. 156 of the 152nd General Assembly. Upon its passage in August 2023, it allows teachers hired after August 9, 2023, who worked as an instructional paraeducator for at least 4 years to receive credit for 1 year of teaching experience for every 2 years of full-time experience as an instructional paraeducator in a public school. This Act removes the date of hire limitation and extends eligibility for experience credit to all qualifying teachers, regardless of their date of hire.

3. According to the Department of Education, 1,377 teachers were once employed as instructional paraeducators. Of those 1,377, 405 worked as instructional paraeducators for at least 4 years. The exact amount of time these teachers worked as paraprofessionals, and their education levels are unknown.

4. It is assumed that a state and local cost will be associated with adjusting eligible teachers' steps on the salary scale. Per the Fiscal Year 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget, the estimated cost difference between individual steps on the state salary schedule ranges from $423.01 to $4,275.65, including OECs at a rate of 33.34%. The estimated cost difference between individual steps on the local salary schedule ranges from $181.29 to $1,832.42, including OECs at a rate of 33.34%, but fluctuates between different local education agencies.

5. Because the current placement of teachers on the salary scale and their adjusted step on the salary scale are unknown, the fiscal impact is indeterminable.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2026: Indeterminable
Fiscal Year 2027: Indeterminable
Fiscal Year 2028: Indeterminable

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