153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE BILL NO. 277**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Hoffner**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO ATTENDANCE AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS.**

Assumptions:

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

2. This Act provides accommodation for students related to pregnancy and parenting. This includes excused absences, access to a private and clean room to express milk, access to equipment or transportation services, academic support (tutoring, supplemental instruction, and counseling), and physical accommodation such as providing desks and chairs of appropriate size and support.

3. According to the National Vital Statistics System of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there have been between 13.5 and 14.7 teen births per 1,000 females age 15-19. Using the Department of Education's (DOE) most recent listing of students by grade, there are 45,987 students in grades 9-12. As 48.24% of Delaware students are female, this would mean there are 22,184 female students which may result in 311 pregnancies a year.

4. For physical accommodation local school districts may need to purchase ergonomic desks and chairs for pregnant students. Local school districts would also need to either repurpose or add space for parenting students to privately express milk. This would result in a one-time expense for local school districts with the following assumptions resulting in a total estimate of $68,900 to $1,150,400.
    a. Pricing for desks from $100 to $400 for basic options. This would result in a cost of $31,100 to $124,400 for new desks for all estimated 311 pregnancies.
    b. For nursing spaces, the National Institute for Health recommends 6 nursing spaces per 1,000 female employees and that a typical nursing space can only accommodate four individuals.
        i. Using DOE's report on the number of students per grade, and calculating the number of potential pregnancies per school, this results in a total of 108 spaces needed. This would ensure one space for every four pregnant students at a given school.
        ii. While some schools may be able to repurpose existing spaces, they may still need to purchase some equipment such as a refrigerator, chair, and table. Pricing for this equipment is estimated at $350. This would result in a total cost of $37,800 to outfit 108 spaces.
        iii. Alternatively, schools unable to repurpose existing spaces could purchase an independent lactation pod for $9,500. This would result in a total cost of $1,026,000 for all 108 spaces.

5. For academic support, the Christina School District already provides a similar service. Using the statewide average per diem and the Christina School District's model we can estimate the following ongoing cost.
    a. This model assumes 28 hours of support per student.

b. The statewide average salary for a secondary school teacher in FY 2026 is $83,288. As there are 188 working days in the school year and 7.5 hours in a working day, this results in $78.99 an hour, inclusive of OECs.
c. For FY 2027 an annual inflationary adjustment of 4.3% will factor in the recommendation of the Delaware Public Education Compensation Committee. For FY 2028 and FY 2029 an annual inflationary adjustment of 2% can be assumed.

6. For transportation, according to the local school districts, private transportation for an individual can cost between $50 to $150 per trip. As there is no existing model or study to estimate the number of trips needed per student the potential cost for providing transportation is indeterminable. Using the lower end of the range and seven trips per student already results in a total cost greater than $100,000.

7. This Act does not provide any state funding for these accommodations, so it can be assumed that all physical, academic, and transportation related accommodations will be covered by local school funding.

Cost:

	Local School Expenses		
	Physical Accommodation (One-Time)	**Academic Support (Ongoing)**	**Transportation (Ongoing)**
Fiscal Year 2027:	$68,900 – $1,150,400	$ 708,882	Indeterminable, potentially significant
Fiscal Year 2028:	None	$ 723,059	Indeterminable, potentially significant
Fiscal Year 2029:	None	$ 737,520	Indeterminable, potentially significant

Prepared by Russell Ames
Office of the Controller General