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sHB-6880

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS
TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 8154

File Copy No.: 757

House Calendar No.: 361

OFA Fiscal Note

See Fiscal Note Details

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and results in the fiscal impact indicated below.

The amendment makes several changes to various education statutes resulting in (1) costs to the Office of Higher Education, (2) potential costs to the Office of Early Childhood and local and regional school districts, and (3) potential savings to local and regional school districts. The amendment also makes several changes which have no fiscal impact.

The fiscal impact of each section is described below.

Section 1 specifies that the edTPA preservice performance assessment tool shall only be used as an accountability tool, and not to deny an application for the issuance of an initial educator certificate. This has no fiscal impact.

Section 2 makes changes regarding the process for a board of education to terminate the contract of a tenured teacher. These changes have no fiscal impact, as they are not expected to change the cost of any relevant proceedings.

Section 3 eliminates the option of a three-member mediation panel for mediation and arbitration between local and regional school districts

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and collective bargaining units. As panel members are paid on a per diem basis, this results in a savings to local and regional school districts that engage in this process annually beginning in FY 24. This savings is expected to be minimal, but will vary based on the extent to which three-member panels are currently used.

Section 4 allows the State Board of Labor Relations to issue cease and desist orders when a local or regional school district or collective bargaining unit alleges that a prohibited practice has occurred, under certain circumstances, beginning in FY 24. This is a procedural change that has no fiscal impact.

Section 5 changes the kindergarten entry age of 5 from January to September beginning in FY 25 which would likely impact the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) expenditures on child care and school readiness programs to the extent that OEC is required to provide continuity of services for those children impacted by the provisions of the bill. For reference, the preschool rate for School Readiness and Child Day Care programs is approximately \$8,900 per child per year.

Section 6 requires local and regional school districts to incorporate play-based learning into instructional time for kindergarten and preschool students, and to permit such instruction by teachers of grades one through five, beginning in FY 25. There is a potential minimal cost to the extent that this requires purchase of any materials or supplies needed to facilitate play-based learning.

Section 7 expands professional development requirements for educators to include play-based learning and, for principals and vice principals, to include management of school personnel and methods for engaging school personnel with the goals of the school. There is a potential, minimal cost beginning in FY 25 to districts associated with the purchase of any materials relevant to the new trainings established by the amendment.

Section 8 requires, beginning in FY 24, local and regional school districts to develop exit surveys and administer them to teachers who

resign voluntarily. Section 9 requires districts to submit the results of these surveys, and associated attrition rates, to the State Department of Education. These provisions have no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that districts can complete the requirement with existing resources.

Section 10 expands membership of the State Board of Education. This has no fiscal impact as members are not compensated.

Section 11 establishes a statewide Teacher Advisory Committee. This has no fiscal impact, as the amendment does not provide for reimbursement to committee members for any costs associated with participation.

Section 12 establishes a task force to study the per pupil equity of funding of the Teachers' Retirement System. This has no fiscal impact as legislative task force members are not compensated.

Section 13 expands professional development for paraprofessionals to include social and emotional learning, and specifies that such professional development cannot include certain mandatory trainings. This has no fiscal impact, as it is not anticipated to change the cost to local or regional school districts of providing professional development for paraprofessionals.

Section 14 requires the professional development and evaluation committee for each local and regional school district to include at least one paraeducator. This has no fiscal impact. It also requires the State Department of Education to annually develop or update guidance and best practices for professional development for paraeducators and to distribute those best practices to local and regional school districts. This has no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that SDE can meet this requirement with existing resources.

Section 15 requires a paraprofessional who is working with a child receiving special education services to review the child's educational program with a supervisor, as needed, after any planning and placement team meeting. This procedural change has no fiscal impact.

Sections 16, 18 and 19 to 22 make several changes regarding teacher certification, permits, and endorsements. These changes have no fiscal impact as they are not anticipated to change any costs to districts associated with educator staff or revenue to SDE regarding fees.

Section 17 requires the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to hire one full-time employee for the existing alternate route to the certification program and to expand the program.

This is anticipated to result in a personnel cost to OHE of approximately \$75,000 annually beginning in FY 24 for a full-time Senior Consultant position with corresponding fringe benefits of \$32,115. Additionally, expanding the program would result in a cost to OHE. The scope of the programmatic costs would be dependent on how the agency expands the program.

Section 23 makes changes to the purchase of service statutes in the Teachers' Retirement System that may result in additional purchases of credited service than permitted under current law. Since the additional credited service permitted under the amendment must be purchased by the member at the full actuarial cost this provision is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state.

Sections 24 and 25 make changes to the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) statutes, including requiring the Teachers' Retirement Board to classify schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools and Goodwin University Educational Service as public schools, that are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact. Teachers in schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools and Goodwin University Educational Service currently participate in the TRS through the LEARN Regional Educational Services Center.

Section 26 makes a technical change regarding the impact of the formation of regional school districts on teacher rights and benefits, which has no fiscal impact.

Sections 27 to 32 make several changes regarding teacher evaluation

and support. Section 29 requires local and regional school districts to conduct trainings at least annually for teacher evaluators (instead of biennially), which results in a potential minimal cost beginning in FY 24 associated with the purchase of training materials. The bill makes other minor changes regarding teacher evaluation and support that have no fiscal impact.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.