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Measure Description:

Establishes pilot program for purpose of increasing number of public school students who are served by school social workers.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Analysis:

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the House Committee on Education to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. The bill requires the Department of Education (ODE) to establish a pilot program to distribute moneys to school districts for the purpose of hiring social workers, increasing the working hours of existing social workers, and enabling existing personnel to earn their social worker license. School districts participating in pilot program are required to submit information annually relating to student attendance rates; reported incidences of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyberbullying; and any other element of the school system, students, or families. Beginning October 15, 2018 ODE is required to report annually to the Legislative Assembly regarding the information submitted by participating school districts. The bill permits ODE to expend an unspecified amount of moneys in the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund for the purpose of funding the pilot program. There is a fiscal impact associated with this bill. A more complete fiscal analysis on the bill will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Further Analysis Required