

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB830

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Cousins

**3. Committee:** Passed both houses

**4. Title:** Farm to School Program Task Force; Department of Education to establish.

**5. Summary:** Requires the Department of Education to establish and appoint such members as it deems necessary or appropriate to the Farm to School Program Task Force for the purpose of increasing student access throughout the Commonwealth to high-quality farm to school programs, defined in the bill as programs (i) whereby public schools purchase and feature prominently in school meals locally produced food or (ii) that involve experiential student learning opportunities relating to local food and agriculture, including school and community garden programs and local farm visits. The bill requires the Task Force to collaborate with local school boards, community-based organizations, farmers, relevant state and local agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to (a) assess existing farm to school programs within the Commonwealth to identify and disseminate to each local school board best practices for implementing and sustaining such programs, (b) establish and distribute to each local school board a guidance document for the establishment and operation of school garden programs, (c) provide information and resources to each local school board to assist it in leveraging grant funds to support farm to school programs, and (d) collect such data and make such policy recommendations to local school boards, the Board of Education, and the General Assembly as it deems appropriate.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final, see item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Education (DOE) does not currently have the capacity to support the work of the Task Force required by this bill. DOE would require one additional position at a cost of \$133,844 per year for salary, benefits, and support costs beginning FY 2025. It is anticipated that this position could be funded with existing federal funds in the Office of School and Community nutrition programs, therefore no budget amendment is necessary.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Education, Board of Education, local school divisions

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is identical to SB314.