



**153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL:	HOUSE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 204
SPONSOR:	Representative Romer
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CHILD CARE LICENSING.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature of the Governor and shall be implemented no later than 180 days from enactment.
2. This Act requires the Department of Education to establish a Child Care Complaint Investigative Unit within the Office of Child Care Licensing. This Act also requires the Department of Education to reclassify existing personnel within the Office of Child Care Licensing and align salaries with the salary schedule set forth in § 1305 of Title 14 of Delaware Code.
3. According to the Department of Education, 6.0 existing FTEs will need to be reclassified to meet the requirements of the Child Care Complaint Investigation Unit as outlined in the legislation.
 - a. It is assumed that 1.0 existing FTE will be reclassified from a Licensing Supervisor to an Education Specialist. According to the Department of Education:
 - i. The annual cost to reclassify a Licensing Supervisor position to an Education Specialist position is estimated to be \$46,931.
 - ii. Funding for a Licensing Supervisor is estimated at \$116,548 annually, including OECs at a rate of 33.43%. Funding for an Education Specialist is estimated at \$163,479 annually, including OECs at a rate of 33.43%.
 - b. It is assumed that 5.0 existing FTEs will be reclassified from Licensing Specialists to Field Agents.
 - i. The annual cost to reclassify a Licensing Specialist position to a Field Agent position is estimated to be \$45,662. The annual cost to reclassify 5 positions is estimated to be \$228,310.
 - ii. Funding for a Licensing Specialist is estimated at \$103,786 annually, including OECs at a rate of 33.43%. Funding for a Field Agent is estimated at \$149,448 annually, including OECs at a rate of 33.43%.
4. It is assumed that salary costs in year one will support 9 months of funding to accommodate time for implementation and the reclassification process. Salary costs are assumed to increase as recommended by the Public Education Compensation Commission (PECC) in fiscal years 2027 and 2028. The PECC recommended increases for individuals on the § 1305 pay scale include a base increase of \$1,875 annually plus 2.0%. Salary costs for fiscal year 2029, and overall costs for all three years, are assumed to increase at a rate of 2.0%.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2027: \$206,429
Fiscal Year 2028: \$286,359
Fiscal Year 2029: \$292,086