

FISCAL NOTE

May 3, 2019

Bill No:	HB 298	Printer's No:	271	Sponsor:	Solomon (D)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2018-19	2019-20
General Fund	See "Fiscal Impact"	\$290,000
Intermediate Units	See "Fiscal Impact"	\$75,000

SUMMARY: HB 298 establishes the Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program.

ANALYSIS: The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP) Act establishes opportunities for qualified older adult volunteers to work directly with students before, during or after school hours, in school buildings and facilities and on school grounds. The program shall be optional for school entities and shall not supersede or restrict any operating volunteer programs.

The Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with the State board, shall develop guidelines for the program, including the implementation and evaluation roles for schools and intermediate units, policies and procedures for operation by school entities in coordination with intermediate units, identification of methods for use in fostering participation, and development and distribution of application forms.

PDE shall also develop and maintain, in coordination with intermediate units, a central registry of older adult volunteers which is electronically accessible.

An older adult may apply to the program through an application to an intermediate unit which indicates the desired school entity for participation. Intermediate units, school entities or area agencies on aging shall furnish applications, and applications may also be submitted electronically via the PDE or Department of Aging website. Any of these entities which receive an application shall forward the application to the appropriate intermediate unit for review and approval.

School entities using the services of these volunteers shall link older adults with students according to academic interests, professional pursuits, hobbies, skills or an identified need for an enriching exchange with an older adult volunteer.

PDE shall also conduct a public awareness program to make older adults, students and school entities aware of the existence and purpose of the program. The department and school entities shall also recruit volunteers and schools shall identify students that may benefit from the program.

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FISCAL IMPACT: PDE lacks the resources to oversee the program as well as funding to implement the program, recruit older adults, and develop and maintain a central registry and an online application system. PDE will incur costs related to program guideline development, maintaining a volunteer registry, and conducting a public awareness program.

Intermediate units will incur costs related to processing applications.

	PDE	Intermediate Units
Guideline development	\$10,000	
Volunteer registry	\$80,000	
Public awareness program	\$200,000	
Application processing		\$75,000
Total	\$290,000	\$75,000