



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 27, 2025

Honorable Kim Schofield
State Representative
608-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 49 2013)

Dear Representative Schofield:

The bill would require that Quality Basic Education (QBE) program weights be adjusted to cover the salaries of at least one trauma informed school counselor for every 150 full-time equivalent (FTE) students, beginning in fiscal year 2027. Additionally, the bill would require the Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC), in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Disabilities, to create a professional trauma informed counseling endorsement by October 1, 2025. GaPSC would be required to establish measures to assess the fidelity of training and implementation for individuals receiving the endorsement.

As shown in **Table 1**, additional counselors would require state funding of \$412.8 million, or approximately \$237 per FTE. This amount is based on FY25 FTE counts and current QBE program weights that provide \$118.41 per FTE for counselors at a 1:450 ratio. The cost by FY27 will be impacted by any change in the base FTE amount from the FY25 amount, as well as any change to the FTE count.

Table 1. Cost of LC 49 2013, Based on FY25 FTE Count and QBE Base

FTE Count	1,743,300
Current Counselor Ratio (1:450)	\$206,424,153
Proposed Counselor Ratio (1:150)	\$619,255,026
Additional State Costs	\$412,830,873
Note: Changes in QBE earnings are borne by the state and local school systems, with the ratio dependent on Local Five Mill Share calculations made each year. Currently, the state share is 80% but could increase in future years based on changes in local property tax digests.	

Additionally, the cap on the Promise Scholarship program at Georgia Student Finance Commission is set at 1% of QBE earnings and would increase as a result of this bill.

Finally, GaPSC can create the endorsement with existing resources. The agency would require no additional funding.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/mlm