



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 141

PRINTERS NO. 691

PRIME SPONSOR: Gillen

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	\$0	\$0

#### SUMMARY:

House Bill 141 amends the Public School Code concerning penalties for violating compulsory attendance requirements. It would take effect in 60 days.

#### ANALYSIS:

This legislation makes several changes to the School Code section concerning penalties for violating compulsory attendance requirements. It adds community service to the list of possible sentences for the parents, guardians, or persons having control or charge over a child who violates compulsory attendance requirements, a list which currently includes fines and parenting classes. In addition, it modifies the requirement that a person "shall" be sentenced to up to five days in county jail for failure to pay fines and court costs or complete a parenting program by providing that such a person "may" be sentenced to jail. Finally, the bill adds that the absences necessary for a student to be considered "habitually truant" must occur within a twelve-month period.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. It has the potential to produce small savings for counties by removing the requirement that those who fail to pay fines or complete parenting programs must be sentenced to up to five days in jail. On average across the Commonwealth it costs \$70 per day to keep a person in county jail.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Miller  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** February 25, 2015

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*